WORLD SOCCER

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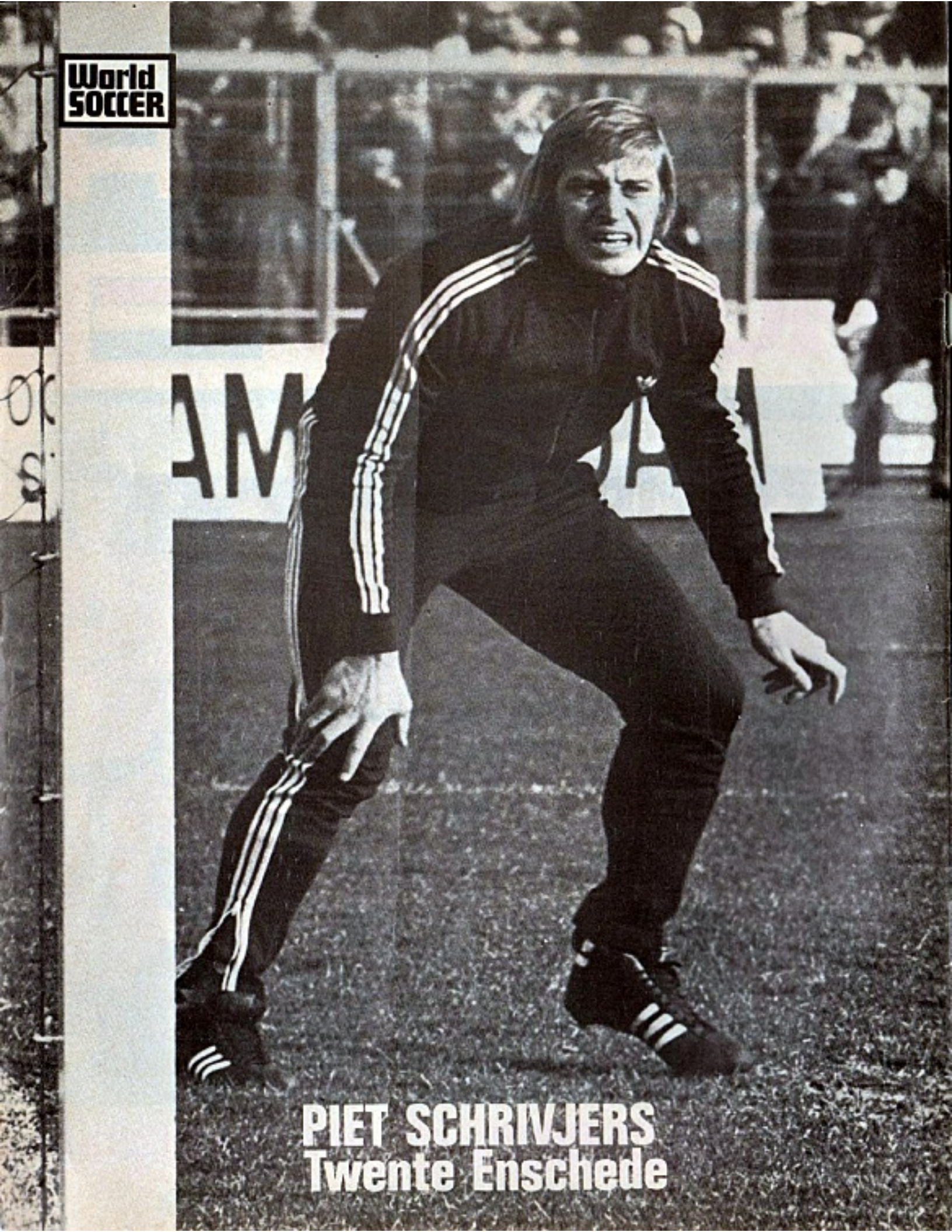
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READERS PLEDGE SUPPORT

LAST month we announced that the price of WORLD SOCCER was being doubled to keep the magazine afloat. And we asked for the support of our readers. The response has been encouraging. The many, many letters we have received, while expressing disappointment at the size of the price increase, pledged support.

For our part, we shall endeavour to make WORLD SOCCER a better magazine, providing our readers with the service they want. So, let us know what you expect each month. We shall start a Readers' Forum in the March issue, but please try to keep your correspondence as concise as possible.

We shall be enlarging our Classified Results service to provide a more comprehensive service from all round the world. And, in World Cup year, we shall be bringing the very best in features and analysis of the countries that will contest the finals in West Germany.

During the past few weeks a major step forward has been taken on the road to establishing professional soccer as a Sunday sport in England. A few years ago I would have been in favour. Now I am not.

I believe Saturday is the day for football in England. I think the majority of players would be against a full-scale change. But if Sunday soccer is the answer to falling gates in certain areas then it should be permitted.

The evidence so far suggests that the experiment has been successful. But that is not to say that clubs would continue to attract above average gates on Sundays. Once the novelty wears off there is a danger that gates will tumble still more. Final judgement should be reserved for a while.

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF 1974 BY

ITALY UNBEA AND VALCAR WINS ACCI

JUST how fickle the fans and critics can be is underlined by the recent award to Italian team manager Ferucccio Valcaeggi of the 'Manager of the Year' trophy for 1973. It is no surprise, surveying Italy's recent international record and knowing how much the vast majority are influenced by results alone for the Italians have not conceded an international goal since September 1972 ...and that was from a penalty.

Yet it is less than four years since the Brazilians totally discredited the Italian defence-dominated game, tearing them apart in the 1970 World Cup final. Brazil's 4-1 victory was rightly hailed as a succes for football as against what the continentals have come to call *anti-football*. Make no mistake, Brazil took Italy apart that day.

But 1972 was a black year for Valcareggi. Eliminated from the European championship by Belgium at the quarter final stage he ended the season with two draws, 3-3 away to Rumania and 2-2 away to Bulgaria that suggested his defensive policy was really crumbling.

At the time with England eliminated from the same competition by West Germany, and Alf Ramsey under attack, it was a toss up who was the least popular in their own countries. "Valcareggi," said many Italian critics, "is as obstinate and as outdated as Ramsey."

The tragedy is that neither Ramsey nor Valcareggi appears to have learned

Peter Shilton saves for England during the international against Scotland at Wembley.

ERIC BATTY

TEN EGGI AIM

from the hard lessons of the past. They remain the same, inflexible in their ideas, determined to pursue the apparently effective but hardly entertaining brand of *fight-ball* and *anti-football*. The wheel of fortune has yet to change for Ramsey—though it would be no surprise to me if it did next season—but Valcareggi's star is once more high in the sky.

For Italy, the veteran defenders Tarcisio Burgnich and Giacinto Facchetti have taken on a new lease of life, but at their ages it can only be temporary. He has also drafted in two or three younger, but no less destructive defenders and the bustling hatchet-man Romeo Bonetti. In attack the more skilful Anastasi has replaced Boninsegna but here the key figures remain—Gianni Rivera and Luigi Riva.

No doubt the Italians *can play football* but their bosses won't let them. It is equally true that England still have players who can play with skill and imagination, but they have not yet been allowed to demonstrate their talents at international level. As I have said so often in *World Soccer*, the game is killing itself, and so few people seem to care.

Top slot

Italy moved up from 22nd place in 1973 to the top slot and another big step up was taken by Sweden. Their high position is flattering for four of their seven victories were gained against neighbouring Scandinavian amateurs and they also had four more matches against lowly placed countries, Hungary, Austria and little Malta.

Belgium, too, are somewhat overrated on their figures. Their three matches were at home to Norway and East Germany who played in Antwerp around the time of their re-start following a three month winter break and the World Cup game in Amsterdam against Holland. The Dutch that day were happy enough with a draw and the Belgians never once looked as if they were prepared to go forward in strength to try and win the match—for fear that they lost it.

Perhaps the most improved teams are Poland and East Germany. Personally I rate the Poles very highly, though because they can play does not necessarily mean they will automatically do well in the World Cup. In 1972 Poland won the Olympic Games soccer title and in other full internationals were unbeaten with two wins and a draw. East Germany also did well in the Olympics, taking third place and were ninth overall.

Another improvement was registered by Northern Ireland who moved up in 1972 to 19th. They would have been placed even higher but for their 0-1 defeat in Cyprus that killed any hopes they may have had of qualifying for the World Cup. Unable to play a home game because of political troubles and dependent on the goodwill of English clubs for the release of their players it was a good year for them.

Qualified

Scotland are almost alone in the world in having taken a big step back from their 1972 form yet still qualified for the World Cup. They slid from 11th place in 1972 to 30th—five wins and two draws being gained in 1972. Paradoxically, on their 1973 performances they appear to be only half as good as England whose overall record is almost exactly twice as good, yet they qualified where England failed. I have no doubt, however, that had England had Czechoslovakia in their group instead of Poland the outcome would have been very different for none but the optimistic Czechs would claim that their game is in good shape.

The Hungarians, too, are in decline. Long gone are the glorious days of Puskas, Kocsis and Hidegkuti and even the team based on Bene, Gorocs and Albert makes the present side pale into insignificance. Without a win for more than a year it seems the head of team manager Rudolf Illovsky will surely roll.

Re-building

Though the Czechs and Hungarians have slid back at international level their top clubs Spartak Trnava and Ujpest Dozsa are both through to the last eight in the European Cup. This suggests they could have done better though Trnava are currently re-building.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, the Bulgarians appear to have lost their way and the Soviet Union has gone down with a resounding thud. Apart from Bonev, on whom their fortunes rest almost entirely, the Bulgarians have failed to develop players with the skill and vision of Asparoukhov and Yakimov. They promised much in the mid-sixties but appear to have taken a wrong turning.

● *Continued overleaf*

SUMMARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	% success
ITALY	8	7	1	0	15	0	93.75
Belgium	3	2	1	0	5	0	83.33
East Germany	13	10	1	2	24	9	80.70
Sweden	11	7	3	1	17	12	77.27
Brazil	10	7	1	2	19	8	75.00
Peru	9	6	1	2	20	8	72.22
Holland	7	4	2	1	19	6	71.42
Yugoslavia	5	2	3	0	8	5	70.00
Poland	11	6	3	2	19	8	68.18
Rumania	6	4	0	2	17	6	66.66
Argentina	12	6	4	2	24	17	66.66
West Germany	10	6	1	3	18	8	65.00
England	12	6	3	3	23	10	62.05
Bulgaria	9	4	3	2	12	10	61.11
Chile	9	4	3	2	16	12	61.11
Uruguay	6	2	3	1	8	4	58.30
France	6	3	1	2	10	7	58.30
Switzerland	6	3	1	2	3	4	58.30
Northern Ireland	8	3	3	2	9	6	56.25
Turkey	4	1	2	1	2	1	50.00
Czechoslovakia	6	2	2	2	10	7	50.00
Spain	5	2	1	2	9	8	50.00
Paraguay	7	2	3	2	6	12	50.00
Mexico	9	3	2	4	14	10	44.44
Denmark	7	2	2	3	6	14	42.00
Russia	10	3	2	5	6	6	40.00
Eire	5	1	2	2	3	5	40.00
Norway	9	3	1	5	14	10	38.85
Hungary	6	0	4	2	9	11	33.33
Scotland	8	2	1	5	6	12	31.25
Portugal	5	0	3	2	6	8	30.00
Austria	7	1	2	4	7	19	28.50
Wales	6	1	1	4	3	10	25.00
Albania	4	1	0	3	3	10	25.00
Luxembourg	5	1	0	4	2	10	20.00
Greece	5	0	1	4	8	15	10.00
Finland	5	0	1	4	3	18	10.00

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF 1974 BY

Brazil slip down, England slump, East Germany emerge...

The Russians are even worse off. Their domestic game is, strangely, as much dominated by defence as is the game in Italy where its a big money, big, big business. The result is almost total absence of forward talent and this failure to produce a new generation of striking forwards is the cause of the Russian decline.

In their last five games (four of them at home in Moscow) they have failed to score a single goal. In fact their last international goal came via a penalty kick in the match they lost at home to England last June!

Yet another high ranking team of 1972 to go down with a bang was Portugal who did so well under Jose Augusto in Brazil's Mini-Copa and finished the year with 8 wins, 1 draw and 1 defeat (away to Brazil) who beat them with a last minute goal).

In 1973, Portugal slumped to 31st position and look well in trouble. The Portuguese still produce talented players but they lack the resilience to re-produce their best form against international opposition where individual battles are fought on a far more physical basis than at home.

Again, the key man in many of the top Portuguese sides are imported South Americans like Sporting's Yazalde from Argentina and Duda, the all-round Brazilian inside forward who plays such an important role for Vitoria Setubal.

It appears to me that the biggest hope for a worthy World Cup winning side rests with West Germany and Brazil but at the moment both have problems. West Germany appear to have lost the finely honed edge of skill that was so apparent in 1972 when they topped the world ranking list with 6 victories, 1 draw and no defeats. Their goals tally of 19 to 4 underlines their superiority which was re-affirmed by the manner in which they beat England at Wembley and went on to take the European championship.

Since then, of course, Netzer has gone to Spain and played only once in the past year. Even then it was on a day when Muller was absent through injury, but I fear we have already seen the best of Gunter Netzer. The man who has taken over his role is Overath—a good strong player with an aptitude for dropping well placed long balls with his left foot, but he lacks the ability to give Muller the kind of service on which he excels.

The Germans still have the personnel if only Helmut Schon is wise enough to bring them all back and can re-motivate them. If we want a good World Cup we must hope that he can.

International results month by month

January

Italy 0 Turkey 0
Greece 2 Spain 3
England 1 Wales 1
Cyprus 0 Bulgaria 3
Greece 2 Bulgaria 2

February

Norway 4 Iceland 1
Mexico 2 Argentina 0
Scotland 0 England 5
Cyprus 1 Northern Ireland 0
West Germany 2 Argentina 3
Colombia 0 East Germany 2
Israel 1 Argentina 1
Spain 3 Greece 1
Ecuador 1 East Germany 1
Turkey 0 Italy 1

March

Peru 5 Guatemala 1
Poland 4 U.S.A. 0
France 2 Portugal 1
Peru 2 Bolivia 0
West Germany 3 Czechoslovakia 0
Bulgaria 1 Russia 0
Rumania 3 Israel 1
Peru 1 Paraguay 0
Wales 2 Poland 0
Northern Ireland 1 Portugal 1
Austria 1 Holland 0
Bolivia 1 Paraguay 1
Italy 5 Luxembourg 0

April

Paraguay 1 Peru 1
East Germany 2 Albania 0
Luxembourg 0 Switzerland 1
Haiti 1 Chile 1
Belgium 3 East Germany 0
Russia 2 Rumania 0
Peru 4 Panama 0
Ecuador 1 Chile 1
Denmark 1 Sweden 2
Peru 2 Chile 0
Hungary 2 Austria 2

May

Holland 3 Spain 2
Denmark 2 Czechoslovakia 1
Bulgaria 2 Portugal 1
Albania 1 Rumania 4
West Germany 0 Yugoslavia 1
Switzerland 0 Turkey 0
Northern Ireland 3 Cyprus 0
West Germany 3 Bulgaria 0
England 2 Northern Ireland 1
Wales 0 Scotland 2
Poland 2 Yugoslavia 2
Russia 1 Eire 0
England 3 Wales 0
Scotland 1 Northern Ireland 2
Poland 2 Eire 0
East Germany 2 Hungary 1
Argentina 1 Uruguay 1
France 1 Eire 1
England 1 Scotland 0
Northern Ireland 1 Wales 0
Uruguay 1 Argentina 1
Sweden 3 Austria 2
Russia 2 France 0
Rumania 1 East Germany 0
Brazil 5 Bolivia 0
Czechoslovakia 1 England 1

June

Algeria 0 Brazil 2
Czechoslovakia 6 Denmark 0
Poland 2 England 0
Finland 1 East Germany 5
Norway 1 Eire 1
Tunisia 1 Brazil 4

ERIC BATTY

Brazilian manager Zagalo produced very good results during 1973, even better when one realises that only one game, the 5-0 win over Bolivia was played in South America. His overall record, considering that lost irreplacable world class stars in Pele, Tostao and Gerson is better than could reasonably be expected.

Successful

On tour in Europe he and his squad learned quickly that they must adapt their game if they are to be successful in Europe and many of his players excelled. Unfortunately, none of the strikers really have the necessary skill and composure to play against the tough intimidating defenders that now dominate in Europe and success in June will depend on Brazil being able to unearth at least one and preferably two new front players who if not the re-incarnation of Pele and Tostao have at least some of their qualities.

Overall, though figures are not supposed to lie, they do at times mislead. Because of this it is my usual custom to offer my own personal ranking list, based on the years performances:

World Class: None.

International Class: West Germany, Poland, Yugoslavia.

Developing: Brazil, East Germany.

Difficult to beat: Italy, Belgium, Holland, England, Argentina, Uraguay (in no particular order).

Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany and Rivelino of Brazil contest possession.

Italy 2 Brazil 0
Russia 1 England 2
Hungary 3 Sweden 3
Austria 1 Brazil 1
Italy 2 England 0
West Germany 0 Brazil 1
Russia 0 Brazil 1
Denmark 1 Norway 0
Switzerland 1 Scotland 0
Colombia 0 Uruguay 0
Sweden 1 Brazil 0
Scotland 0 Brazil 1

July

Ecuador 1 Uruguay 2
Peru 3 Colombia 1
All Ireland XI 3 Brazil 4
Uruguay 0 Colombia 1
Sweden 1 Finland 1
Uruguay 4 Ecuador 0
Sweden 1 Iceland 0
Argentina 5 Chile 4
Chile 3 Argentina 1
Iceland 1 East Germany 2
Iceland 0 East Germany 2
Chile 3 Bolivia 0
Argentina 3 Peru 1
Norway 3 North Korea 0

August

Iceland 0 Norway 4
Chile 2 Peru 1
Russia 0 Sweden 0
Mexico 1 Poland 2
Guatemala 1 Mexico 0
Bulgaria 0 Poland 2
Holland 5 Iceland 0
Holland 8 Iceland 1
Finland 1 Sweden 2

September

Bolivia 1 Paraguay 2
Russia 0 West Germany 1
France 3 Greece 1
Argentina 4 Bolivia 0
Norway 1 Holland 2
Paraguay 1 Argentina 1
Mexico 1 Chile 2
Bolivia 0 Argentina 1
Norway 0 Denmark 1
East Germany 2 Rumania 0
Russia 0 Chile 0
Scotland 2 Chechoslovakia 1
Poland 3 Wales 0
Switzerland 1 Luxembourg 0
Northern Ireland 0 Bulgaria 0
Yugoslavia 1 Hungary 1
England 1 Austria 0
Italy 2 Sweden 0
Paraguay 4 Bolivia 0

October

Argentina 3 Paraguay 1
Luxembourg 0 Canada 2
Albania 1 Finland 0
Holland 1 Poland 1
West Germany 4 Austria 0
Portugal 2 Bulgaria 2
Denmark 2 Hungary 2
West Germany 2 France 1
Rumania 9 Finland 0
England 1 Poland 1
Czechoslovakia 1 Scotland 0
East Germany 1 Russia 0
Italy 2 Switzerland 0
Yugoslavia 0 Spain 0
Eire 1 Poland 0
Belgium 2 Norway 0

November

Albania 1 East Germany 4
Luxembourg 2 Norway 1
Malta 1 Sweden 2
Portugal 1 Northern Ireland 1
England 0 Italy 1
Scotland 1 West Germany 1
Holland 0 Belgium 0
Turkey 2 Switzerland 0
Bulgaria 2 Cyprus 0
France 3 Denmark 0
Hungary 0 East Germany 1
West Germany 2 Spain 1
Austria 1 Sweden 2

December

Guatemala 0 Mexico 0
Honduras 1 Mexico 1
Antilles 0 Mexico 8
Haiti 0 Mexico 1
Greece 2 Yugoslavia 4

BAYERN SNATCH TOP PLACE AGAIN

by Arthur Rotmil

BAYERN MUNICH, the champions of Germany for the past two seasons, are making a determined bid to become the first club to win the crown for the third time running. On the last day before the short winter break, the Bavarians shot to the top of the Bundesliga to claim the unoffical title of "Halbzeitmeister" (half-time champions). In a super match before over 70,000 enthralled spectators in Munich's Olympic stadium, Bayern beat their most dangerous rivals Borussia Mönchengladbach by 4-3.

No one who witnessed this feast of football, with a glut of goals to decorate it, will ever forget this occasion. Most commentators ran out of superlatives as these two leading German teams demonstrated all the arts and crafts of the game in a fashion which was truly astonishing, when considering what was at stake.

Both clubs have been pushed this season by the surprise emergence of Eintracht Frankfurt, who in fact led the table right up till the halfway mark, and although beaten by Fortuna Düsseldorf 1-0, the Frankfurters are only behind Bayern on goal difference.

Pressure

But Bayern once again confirmed their strength at home, and indeed one has to go back nearly four years to find their last defeat in Munich. That in fact occurred on March 28, 1970! Since then Bayern have played 65 home League games, winning 53, drawing 10 with a goal tally of 218 to 64.

And yet, it has been a tough term for the champions, whose defence proved far from reliable. This is borne out by the remarkable deficit of 34 goals conceded in 17 games. In the whole of last season Bayern have only let in 29. The temporary loss of form of their international stars, including Müller, Schwarzenbeck, even Beckenbauer and especially goalkeeper Maier, has put the champions under severe pressure.

Inadequate preparations, an incredibly charged programme of pre-season friendlies have not unexpectedly produced nervous tension and physical reaction, which affected the form of the top players, since they also had to perform in the national side with an eye on selection for the forthcoming World Cup finals!

In addition, Bayern suffered from injuries to top men like Breitner and Kapellmann, while Gersdorf has not proved the winger they had hoped for. And in both European Cup-ties Bayern were hard pushed to survive against the tough Swedes from Atvidaberg and the East Germans Dynamo Dresden, in what was a major prestige clash. But whatever else might afflict them, they will surely rise again as they did after that fantastic match in Kaiserslautern, when the champions led 3-0 and 4-1, only to lose by 4-7! In the light of what has happened so far, the German fans are in for a cracking second half of the season.

Uwe Seeler, the ex-German international, listening to the World Cup draw.

No wonder the gates have been rising steadily and have reached 3,333,417 for an average of 22,075 per match — the highest figure for four years! Last season's average was 16,865 at this stage. Thus the *Bundesliga* can boast of 754,000 fans more than at the corresponding period a year ago! Most experts claim that this renewal of interest is partly due to the completion of the proceedings in the bribery scandals, but mainly on account of the exciting games, eight changes in the leadership and the glut of goals.

Since the creation of the National League there haven't been so many goals scored as in this half of the season: 544 as compared to the previous record of 505 goals scored in 1967. There have never been so many draws (44) before either, but only eight games finished goalless.

Registered

Out of the 18 clubs, only three recorded gates lower than last season at this stage: MSV Duisburg, Wuppertaler SV and Fortuna Düsseldorf. The biggest attendances were registered in Munich, where Bayern drew 369,000 fans for an average of 41,074 per match. But the most astonishing rise in crowd figures is reported from Gelsenkirchen where Schalke nearly trebled their average from a lowly 13,887 last term, to a fabulous 35,591 at present, no doubt due to the club having moved to the new stadium built for the World Cup. Thus at the half-way mark Schalke has already drawn more supporters than in the whole of last season!

Another club now reaping the benefit of improved facilities and the end of the scandals is Hertha Berlin whose gates have jumped on average from 19,573 to 37,488—nearly doubled by comparison with last year! Hertha also boast the record attendance of the current campaign when 78,470 fans turned out for their clash with Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Increase

A near 100 per cent increase was also experienced by Eintracht Frankfurt — from 13,520 to 25,569! And UEFA-Cup quarter-finalist VfB Stuttgart claim 29,112 as against 18,682 previously.

And even in the Regional League the FC Augsberg (created from the amalgamation of BC Augsburg and Schwaben), now with their local idol Helmut Haller, have reached the astounding average gate of 26,000 per match!

The big surprise of the DFB-Cup competition was the elimination of the holders Borussia Mönchengladbach. After two bitterly fought ties against the vastly improved Hamburger SV, the Gladbacher fell to Hamburg's goalkeeper Rudi Kargus, who saved three penalties in the decisive spot-kick series after both games were drawn.

Personal Opinion . . . . . by LESLIE VERNON

Can Sir Alf fool all the people or not?

CHEER-UP lads! There is nothing to worry about. Sir Alf has decided not to desert us and to see the job through to its bitter end. In his Christmas message to the nation, Ramsey has deplored the gloom surrounding football at present, and has conveyed these significant sentiments:

"People seem to be writing the game off. It is not as bad as that. We are the best footballing nation in the world. The only thing which stopped us being in the Finals was our failure to finish properly in front of goal. There is not a lot wrong with our tactics or with our players. I will concede that there are more skilful players in other countries, but we are rich when it comes to players of character, strength, dedication and top-class fitness."

This patronizing nonsense appeared in the "Daily Express", and I feel it necessary to repudiate it, otherwise Sir Alf might get the idea that he can fool all the people all of the time. For him to be surprised at the widespread pessimism is to exercise an ostrich policy of gigantic magnitude.

After all, it was Ramsey's own blunders that cost us a place in the Finals. Of course, it wasn't the national team manager who missed chances galore against Poland, but it was he who selected the players for the entire series of World Cup matches, decided the tactics, substituted a player in the 359th minute of the competition, and confessed that he didn't understand what went wrong.

Exercise

Three goals — one of them a gift penalty — in four matches convinced him that something was not quite perfect with our finishing. He has finally discovered that the object of the exercise is to put the ball in the opponents' net, and if you don't do that often enough no amount of whitewashing will let you off the hook.

"We need goalscoring forwards," has been the battle-cry of managers since time immemorial. But we also need tactical wisdom to provide our forwards with space in which to manoeuvre—an act singularly beyond the capabilities of Sir Alf.

In the face of all the evidence to the contrary, the England manager still has the effrontery to say that we are the best footballing nation in the world. Who is he kidding? The ancient F.A. councillors, who keep him in a job which he is reluctant to vacate? The public, who have endured a long succession of boring England teams playing dull, plodding, pedestrian, unimaginative football? Or perhaps he is a believer of the method of self-persuasion, which teaches that if one says something often enough, one eventually becomes convinced that it is the truth.

Ramsey's description of our assets gives the game away. His ideal international player is a cross between a long distance runner and a weight-lifter. Never mind imagination, individuality, a capacity to improvise.

"Ramsey's Robots" indeed — what a fitting epitaph for an inglorious failure! The constant moans and groans about our "bad luck" (mind you, only in the last match out of four!) reminds me of a story featuring the old Hollywood actor "Cuddles Szakall".

When he was still living in Vienna, he was a fanatical supporter of F.K. Austria. During a local derby in which Rapid took Austria apart, "Cuddles" cried out time and again "What bad luck!", clutching and shaking his head in characteristic fashion. "What are you talking about? They are far better than us!" said a guy in exasperation who was sitting behind the actor. "Well, isn't it bad luck that we have such a lousy team? answered "Cuddles".

Two of the game's most likeable and progressive young managers, Gordon Jago and George Petchey, took part in an interesting crosstalk at the instigation of Norman Giller. Many bright ideas were discussed in this excellent "Evening Standard" piece, but I was amused to see that one of Petchey's "dreams" for 1974 was that "nobody inside the game is knocking football, or people in football, in newspaper and television interviews".

Methods

Rather odd, when in the very same article, the well-meaning Orient manager himself said that "I cannot forgive Leeds for their methods in the mid-sixties" and "the sixties were the blackest period in our history, even though we won the World Cup.

"That was when natural flair and freedom of players was kicked out of the game. Players of the type of Hunter, Storey and Stiles were allowed to emerge and were encouraged to put the physical side of football above all else."

Wise words, and I do agree with them wholeheartedly. But who is knocking the game now? Aren't those players still around? You see, George, the trouble with people who want to put a muzzle on others is that they themselves cannot keep quiet either. I am tired of listening to the members of football's Magic Circle, who blame the media for everything under the sun (floodlighting is not allowed!)

I have much more sympathy with the view that not nearly enough people have access to T.V. and the dailies to communicate their ideas to the public at large. A code (or should it be conspiracy?) of silence is the method favoured by totalitarians, and its acceptance would further damage the game, because people in authority would feel safe from censure and open criticism.

If football is important enough to be part of our lives, it must be discussed freely, without any reservations. Petchey (rightly) dislikes certain aspects of football. Others might not be over-keen on the way Orient play or conduct their affairs.

They should be entitled to say so without the fear that they'll be branded as enemies of the sport. There is no point in sweeping the dirt under the carpet, dressing-up our failures as though they were glorious victories, over-praising our mediocre players, and talk about a new dawn, even before the old faded sun has gone down.

Ramseyism is sheer obstinate cussedness and self-delusion, but Petcheyism — whether we dream or stay wide awake — is just as destructive. I, for one, will carry on "knocking" the game and the people in it — if, in my humble opinion, they deserve to be "knocked"!

RAMSEY HAS THE RESULT

SIR Alf, alas, is still with us, and showing, at the moment, no sign of disappearing. If he won't go of his own will, surely he must be removed, for the symbolic importance of his going—or if you prefer it, of his staying—can hardly be exaggerated. One has said that Ramsey appears to conceive resignation as a confession of failure, when none is required. He HAS failed; the very results show it. He failed in the Nations Cup, when his ineptly selected team foundered in the quarter-final at home to West Germany; and he then took to Berlin a team of cloggers with no chance at all of getting more than a bruising draw. He failed monumentally in the World Cup, when again misguided selection, compounded by slow thinking—the substituting of Kevin Hector for Chivers ninety seconds from the end of the Polish game was surely the reductio ad absurdum—proved disastrous.

by Brian Glanville

Malcolm Macdonald, has had few chances for England under Sir Alf.

I do not want, here, to reiterate one's many arguments against Ramsey's stewardship of the England team, and shall content myself with a few general considerations. In the first place, he is wedded to a philosophy of football—sometimes strangely and recklessly abandoned—which is negative, out of date, and has had the most sterilising effect on our League football.

In the second, he quite clearly has nothing left to offer an England team which has been increasingly unsuccessful, in his charge. In the third, relations between team management and the Press, at a time when everybody in football needs urgently to work together as smoothly as possible, have been poisoned.

Poisoned, moreover, in an especially insidious way. Ramsey, a sure sign, here, of insecurity, has hidden behind an assumption of mystical superiority. The arcane mysteries of the game can be penetrated only by him and his like, but will never reveal themselves to base journalists. All this would be just about tolerable, though logically still absurd, were Sir Alf only capable of winning all the time. But he isn't; he has lost matches in abundance, made mistakes bizarrely elementary and expensive.

Ah, you will say, but his players still believe in him! Indeed they do, but who believes in his players? They constitute at the present a mediocre team which has contrived to become the first in our history not to qualify for the World Cup, the first to lose away to Italy, the first to lose at home to Italy.

Besides, the leader-principle, as we have seen all too clearly in recent history, is a highly dubious one. Not for the first time, one demands, who is Sir Alf leading, and where is he leading them? They have, those players, a vested interest in keeping Ramsey in power, for while he is there, then so will they be.

To me, the idea of another four years and more of outmoded thinking, surly intransigence, xenophobia, is depressing in the extreme.

Next question, inevitably; then whom would you appoint in Ramsey's place? A hard one, though again, I would reiterate my view that the important thing, above all else, is GETTING RID OF HIM. If you believe that he is now a force for . . . let us be as polite as possible and say obsolescence—then you must also believe that the most vital thing is to get him out; on the assumption that a successor would do less harm.

As for successors, it's a difficult matter. I would have chosen Jimmy Adamson, who was offered the job as long ago as 1962, when he had worked as England's coach in the Chilean World Cup. He was wise enough to turn it down, for what experience had he? Today he is one of the best, most progressive, managers in the country, a fine coach as well as a shrewd administrator.

But a talk with Bob Lord, his excellent and much maligned Chairman—would they were all like Lord, on that dreary, Football League Management—has shown me that he is most unlikely to be released. Lord would not, in his own words, throw Adamson to the wolves, least of all at such a delicate stage of his career.

Coaches

My own inclination would be to appoint a foreign manager of stature, but I realise that this is no more than whistling for the moon. We have sent our coaches and managers all over the world, in charge now of Denmark, now Sweden, now Greece, now Holland, but it has been a one-way traffic. That the French, the Dutch, the Australians and others have foreign born coaches will carry no weight with our own, insular game.

Among our own managers, Clough, who seemed the most interesting and convincing candidate, has played his cards so badly that there can no longer be any question of appointing him. Bobby Robson has signed a long, new contract with Ipswich Town. Malcolm Allison, like Clough, has skidded verti-

FAILED...
S SHOW IT!

ginously from his previous heights. Don Revie would clearly prefer to remain with Leeds; or perhaps take a more remunerative post elsewhere, finally discouraged by the lack of response in that curiously lukewarm city. Besides, he is a little old to think of switching from club management now.

Perhaps Bob Stokoe might be tempted away from Sunderland, where he has proved himself impressively, but where things have not been so rosy since that marvellous Cup Final victory, to wed him to Roker Park for life. At all events this, as I have suggested, is essentially a secondary question. We need new life, new leadership, new directions, in British football. The persistence of Ramsey in the managerial chair is the symbol of stasis.

Deference

I was interested to read the recent discussion, in WORLD SOCCER, of the relative parts played by the Football Association and the Football League in the early years of the European Cup. With deference to a colleague, I must fully support Sir Stanley Rous, who was quite understandably perturbed at the suggestion that the Association, rather than the League, had stood in the way of the competition in its formative stages.

Let me recapitulate what happened. When the European Cup was launched, in 1955, the retrograde Football League, Alan Hardaker in the Chair, "advised" Chelsea, the English Champions, not to participate. Chelsea meekly and gutlessly complied. The following season, the much more resilient and internationally minded Manchester United were the Champions. Again the League gave their half-baked, misguided, insular advice, but were politely told to take a walk. United went all the way through to the semi-final.

But the League had a long, malign memory. In 1958, with a most generous and sporting gesture, the organisers of the European Cup invited Manchester United to participate, though they had been knocked out in the semi-finals. The reason, of course, was to show sympathy to United for the dreadful disaster of the Munich air crash, which occurred on the way back from a European Cup tie in Belgrade.

But the Football League had no time for mawkish sentiment. In they came with all the force and fervour of their great, hobnailed boots and told United they could not compete, using the shamelessly impertinent excuse that EUROPEAN CUP RULES DID NOT PERMIT IT! In their words, UEFA having waived the qualification rules of the European Cup to admit Manchester United to the tournament, the Football League piously pronounced that they could not do so!

Busby and United were rightly furious, and appealed to the FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (be it noted). The F.A. gave United right, and said they could enter. The League then flew into a paddy and demanded a joint F.A.-F.L. Committee which cravenly and unforgivably reversed the F.A. decision and banned United from competing. It was a piece of petty spite by the Football League and I would not bother to recall it, were the Football Association not so unfairly tarred with the same brush.

I am quite, quite sure that there was no doubt at all in anybody's mind at the time where the Football Association stood; and with Rous as its internationally minded secretary, it would have been surprising had it stood anywhere else.

England team manager Sir Alf Ramsey checks the time, which does at least prove he has a watch.

TOUGH DRAW BUT ORMOND IS CONFIDENT

SCOTLAND'S World Cup countdown started 16 months ago against Denmark in Copenhagen. Since then—and a 4-1 triumph—Scotland have come a long, long way and now that the ultimate goal, Munich, has been reached section rivals Brazil, Zaire, Yugoslavia or Spain will do well to understand the power and determination of the Scots.

Since Copenhagen there has been a change of managers with Tommy Docherty being lured to the big cash and even bigger problems of Manchester United and former St. Johnstone boss Willie Ormond making the step up to take over.

Docherty left Ormond with two victories and four points. Willie's first World Cup game couldn't have been more memorable—it was the Hampden collision with Czechoslovakia that Scotland won 2-1 to go through to the finals of the world's most treasured trophy for the first time in 16 years.

The celebrations are just beginning in earnest now. The section draw couldn't have been tougher. Brazil, the holders, have lost most of the team that won the Jules Rimet trophy for the third and final time in Mexico four years ago, but they are certainly still one of the finest and best equipped sides in the world.

Although the mastery of Pele, the leadership of Carlos Alberto, the guidance of Gerson and the sniping of Tostao will be missing there are still players of the highest quality in Mario Zagallo's line-up.

I hear that Zagallo may get the axe before the World Cup Finals, but I don't really believe that this will hinder the South Americans. Remember former manager Joao Saldanha was sacked shortly before the finals in Mexico—and what happened? Brazil still won the trophy!

Brazil will be the team to pose most problems to Scotland in the qualifying section, there can be no doubt about that. Spain and Yugoslavia meet in their play-off later this month and Ormond will certainly be at this match to spy on his opponents, but it is well within Scotland's capabilities to beat either of these sides when it comes to the crunch. Zaire are the joke of the section and I don't see them getting in anyone's way.

Jim Holton of Manchester United, a strong candidate for a place in the Scottish squad for West Germany, heads clear while Tommy Taylor of West Ham climbs on top of George Graham.

Confidence

I know teams such as North Korea and Morocco have caught countries taking a bit of a breather in their section matches in past World Cups, but I just cannot see anyone drop a point to them. Scotland meet them first on June 14 and this match should give Ormond's men the chance to get their confidence built up in West Germany.

I don't believe Brazil will be less of a threat because the Finals are in a European country. Skill tells in the end no matter what nationality you may be and Scots will do well to remember that the Brazilians did, in fact, beat them at Hampden last summer. Scotland were a timid bunch that afternoon and some of the players looked as if they could scarcely believe they were on the same pitch as the World Cup holders. That attitude will be changed in West Germany!

ALEX GORDON reports on Scotland's chances in Germany this year

Scottish team manager Willie Ormond is interviewed on German television after the World Cup draw.

Brazil consistently bemoan the fact that Pele won't be in their team. I believe this is a not too subtle way of trying to camouflage some of the talents of their other individuals.

I am thinking of players such as Paulo Cesar, a midfield man of perception and power, that superb goal-scoring raider Jairzinho and Clodoaldo, although he is playing in a more restricted role these days. These three players could walk into any team in the world. And don't dare forget Rivelino. He may not be the lithe, athletic figure he was in Mexico, but then Puskas did a lot of damage in his day and he wasn't particularly slim!

Brazil have already got their planning down to minute detail and the two German countries apart, they will probably be the best organised country in Munich. They have arranged nine practice games in Brazil to make sure that every player in the travelling squad gets a game beside his colleagues. They will arrive in West Germany on May 15 and immediately retreat to the Black Forest where they will play three games against West German club sides.

They have left nothing to chance, but they can still be beaten on the pitch when it comes to the crunch. Italy—one of the four seeded teams along with Brazil, West Germany and Uraguay—beat them 2-0 in a challenge match during the summer and proved that the Brazilians are vulnerable in certain circumstances.

High balls

When Brazil came to Hampden Scotland concentrated far too much on throwing high balls into their penalty area hoping for the heads of Derek Parlane and Joe Jordan. These were futile attempts without any varying methods and Ormond and his players will have learned from this defeat. It should be stressed, of course, that the Brazilians were hardly a strike force to send shivers down the back of any capable goalkeeper.

They won with a deflected shot off Derek Johnstone that spun away from Peter McCloy. The goal was a fluke and apart from some long-range attempts from Cesar and Rivelino they didn't look like a side capable of running up a 4-0 or 5-0 score against any self-respecting team.

I'm not trying to give the impression that Brazil are now a third-rate team. Anyone thinking that the Brazilians are only in Munich to make up the numbers is considerably lacking in grey matter. England had to face up to them in Mexico four years ago in a qualifying game and went down 1-0. Even if Scotland get a result such as this it won't be too bad.

Commanding

Two sides will go through and sometimes it is better to be second in circumstances. Teams may forget about Scotland if they get in second with Brazil commanding most of the attention by finishing section winners. On the other hand a victory over the Cup-holders would mark out Scotland as a team demanding 100 per cent respect.

Ormond is keenly aware of what faces his men in this section.

ON BRAZIL he said: "I know they beat us at Hampden, but I believe my team has improved tremendously since then. We are not in the least afraid of them. Of course they are one of the finest teams around, but we played fairly well against them the last time out even when the game came at a bad time of the season for the players. It was in the close season and my players were tired after a hard season for their clubs in Scotland and England. Now we will be better prepared."

ON SPAIN AND YUGOSLAVIA: "Both are obviously very capable sides and I will watch their play-off. This will be an ideal game in which to evaluate their capabilities. Neither team can afford to try to hide something from me and I will be able to get a fair idea of how they play from this game. I know we have a good record against Yugoslavia, but I would prefer to meet Spain."

ON ZAIRE: "They will be our first game in Germany and they will get every respect from us. I don't know if I have the time or opportunity to see them in action before Munich. It would be good to get a hold of a recent film of them in action."

Ormond has assembled a fine squad around him. He has the skills of Kenny Dalglish, Willie Morgan, Tommy Hutchison and Jimmy Smith; the rugged determination of Jim Holton, Billy Bremner, Sandy Jardine and Davie Hay; the solid last line of Davie Harvey and Ally Hunter; the flair and menace of Dennis Law and Peter Lorimer and the craft of Danny McGrain, George Connelly and John Blackley. These are just some of the names that will make up the final pool that will be ready for the glory assault on Munich.

Tremendous

The players have been tried and trusted with the job of helping Scotland make the long awaited breakthrough. This is just the start of something that could work wonders with everything that is Scottish. There can be no doubt that if Scotland do well—and by that I don't necessarily mean winning the actual trophy—the game will get a tremendous boost.

The fans need a massive influence to drag them away from their television sets, the shopping or taking Fido for a walk on Saturday afternoons. The men who represent Scotland in West Germany will be doing far more than just kick a ball about for 90 minutes in each game. They are capable of giving soccer a supersonic boost. They realise this and the magnificent thing is that they are looking forward to it eagerly.

The tartan invasion could well be a feature of this World Cup. We can only hope...

JOHAN CRUYFF ANOTHER DI ST

CF BARCELONA'S Dutch star Johan Cruyff was recently awarded the supreme title of European Footballer of the Year for the second time. This feat had never before been accomplished by anyone other than Alfredo Di Stefano and inevitably many writers sought to compare the two.

Though comparisons are always difficult, to compare Di Stefano with Cruyff is laughable, like comparing the bread we eat in 1974 with the *real stuff* we got back in the 'fifties.

Cruyff's award in 1971 was far more justified than that for 1973. Though associated with success at every level—European Cup winners with Ajax and World Cup qualifier with Holland—his personal contribution on the big occasion has been negligible. This is not to say that he is not an outstanding player, brilliant at times and probably has the potential to become the best in the world *if he had the desire or the incentive.*

But the fact remains that he has neither desire nor incentive. He is no longer hungry for the good things in life and like many others he now just takes them for granted. For example, in the Ajax-Juventus European Cup final his contribution was so negligible that one wondered if he were really playing. Could it have been a wax model on view in Belgrade?

This is not intended to be a "knock Cruyff" piece. The fellow has tremendous ability. He really can *play*. But like too many today he is careful to look after his legs and only does enough to ensure that his side wins. He has not yet fulfilled the tremendous promise he showed when he played such a vital part in hammering Liverpool for five in Amsterdam and then drew at Anfield in the European Cup.

Give Cruyff the trophy if you must, but don't compare him with Di Stefano.

Nominated

Another player still featuring in the five players nominated by the "experts" of Europe is Eusebio. Here is another "con" job that has been perpetrated for years. In his younger days Eusebio showed tremendous promise but though now a veteran he never lived up to his early promise. When he was 20 he was often referred to as the "European Pele".

True he was in 1972-73 season the top scorer in league games for the whole of

by Eric Batty

Europe. Perhaps that's why he got votes. But those in the know recognise that Eusebio blew out years ago, even before the 1966 World Cup in which he was the highest scorer. Four of his goals in that tournament were scored against the brave little North Koreans—but not until our hero had assured himself that they didn't kick!

English journalists will be relieved to know that they are not alone in struggling to find ever more magnificent superlatives with which to describe the heroes of their readers. Across the world, the average fan wants to read that his team, his favourite player is the best in the world. Tragically, they get what they deserve.

Thus it is that myths are preserved. None is more remarkable than the aura which still remains around Real Madrid and to a lesser extent Benfica. In fact, Real Madrid have been living on their reputation for some 12 years. Since 1961/62 they have been just another club and at times very ordinary. Yet they never lost the word "great" in the public mind.

Remember Peter Thom

PETER THOMPSON'S the name. And just in case that fails to ring a bell, let me quickly add that this is the footballer whom some folk believe is living on borrowed time.

At any rate, that's the position if you took your cue from a top specialist who examined the former England winger nearly two years ago, and then handed out some rather grim advice.

The medical man said it might be a good idea to begin making plans for the future immediately. Because it seemed as if an illustrious soccer career could be finished within a further 12 months. Or something around that period.

The suggestion was a shaker, as I dare-say it would have been to any other professional. And, having had two cartilages removed, there did appear to be some reasonable ground for such pessimism at the end of a complete examination of a suspect left leg.

But it aroused a strong challenge in this Liverpool star of an entire decade. Came a summer of hard, lonely training, and when the leg was eventually put to the test in actual matches, everything was good, though at the time, Bill Shankly was planning without him.

Then the whole positon further improved. Bolton, searching for greater attacking strength, talked the League champs into a loan, finally paid out £18,000, and to the delight of every Wanderer, Peter was one of the successes of that great Sunday Cup victory over Stoke.

Deepdalers

It's nearly 14 years since this Carlisle native made a League bow on Preston's behalf, and in the interim has chalked up almost 600 first-team appearances for the Deepdalers and the Merseysiders, yet believes there's still plenty of offer to the old game.

So now he's all set to become the idol of yet another Lancashire outfit, and you can take it as read that Burnden Park, which remembers the great years of David Jack, Joe Smith, Ted Vizard, Nat Lofthouse, and Bobby Langton, is eager to welcome a new addition.

There can be no questioning the preparedness of this man because he had inwardly vowed to quit if there were any personal doubts about the necessary fitness, and the continuing ability to hold one's own.

He was sufficiently wise to recognise that, at 31, the summit might have been reached, and, in any case, the going was hardly likely to become easier, even when backed by long and top-class experience at home and abroad.

Contemplating that point, he says: "I decided to personally assess my own early performances, and would not have agreed to continue if there had been any doubt at all in my mind, but, instead, would have quit, because I'm not one of those intent on looking for games down the divisions."

The mood is very definite on that score. Having noted how many good players hav discovered it was not as easy as they had anticipated in the lower echelons, he is determined not to tread that particular trail.

FF IS NOT STEFANO

The same was true of Benfica, though there the position has begun to change. Neither Benfica generally, nor Eusebio in particular, did anything of note against Derby in the European Cup and even though Eusebio was given the captain's arm-band for the game at Coventry against Northern Ireland, anyone that went hoping to see the great man need not have bothered.

Realistic

The award of the golden ball for the leading league scorer cooked up between *France Football* and *Adidas* was a good idea. But to be realistic—even honest—it must be re-organised. In Portugal where Eusebio was king last season and the Argentinian Yazalde now leads Europe for Sporting goals are easier to get. Portuguese defenders, though no more innocent when it comes to foul play are more *Brazilian* in their methods, preferring to obstruct, hold and push rather than kick.

One goal in Italy is worth 1½ goals in England and West Germany; 2 in Belgium and Holland and at least 3 in any other country!

Of course, I can understand why some big names fail to please in the big competitions. For years they have been abused, kicked, punched, brought down by rugby tackles and suffered serious injury repeatedly. For this we must blame the game generally and more particularly the referees who do not assert themselves enough. Football was made for the stars, men from the past, like Matthews, Mannion, Puskas, Pele Di Stefano. Such players should be protected by referees but seldom are.

Full marks to the referee who sent off a Newcastle player right at the start of a recent match with Birmingham. More decisions like that please.

Finally, it has been said that the great players of the past wouldn't live in the game as it is played today. What is not generally understood is that the stars have always had to fight for the right to demonstrate their skill! There always were choppers, but in the old days when great players played for love they looked after themselves . . . and would do it today too.

One of the truly great foreign stars of the 'fifties and 'sixties provided me with an illuminating memory. After being badly fouled from behind he received treatment and the game against an English club resumed. By coincidence, the game hadn't been going on more than 30 seconds before his assailant had been *accidentally* injured.

Johan Cruyff of Holland.

The star who gave it back hovered near while the original hatchet man was treated, looking him straight in the eye. Though unable to speak English his look said it all and after that there was no more trouble.

Much of today's difficulties for referees stem from the fact that they fail to take firm action against offenders. The result is that a player who can be half crippled by one foul tackle takes the law into his own hands. Too often a player retaliating is disciplined by referees who fail to stamp hard enough on the perpetrator of the original foul. As a direct result we have players who go chicken or those who look after themselves.

ompson?

by Eric Thornton

Which means, of course, that this winner of 14 caps, is not going to be available for kidding, fully realising that the lower you go on our domestic stage, the harder it always becomes.

There you have it. Very definitely, he's not the type who would ever want it to end that way, and, come to think of it, neither would his new boss the knowledgeable and understanding Jimmy Armfield, who was just stepping out of the England line-up when he stepped in.

When the time for calling it a day does arrive, however, there will be plenty to do because a stake in a caravan site near Blackpool will no doubt provide sufficient problems for all the waking hours, especially during the holiday months.

It may be a little difficult to imagine Peter Thompson the businessman, but it will never be a problem to remember Peter Thompson the soccer winger who has always given pleasure to so many.

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Keir Radnedge reports on the shock news f

MUNOZ R
WHO W
OVER AT

MIGUEL MUNOZ, who joined Real Madrid as a player in 1948, and had been their manager since 1960, resigned today.

Munoz's departure was not announced by the man himself, but by the club secretary, Agustin Dominguez.

The announcement was brief and to the point: Munoz had offered his resignation, the club had accepted it, and for the time being Luis Molowny had taken over the first team.

I would like to say that Munoz's departure is a shock. It is not. But the salient factor is that Munoz resigned. A lot of Real's fans are reading into those words what they have long feared: that the club did not have the spine to dismiss him.

Bad luck

Munoz, aged 51, a burly, composed character, had come under increasing fire as his rule continued. It was his bad luck to take over as manager from the unpopular Paraguayan, Fleitas Solich, in the spring of 1960, when the Di Stefano-Puskas-Gento team was at its zenith.

With Munoz nominally the boss, but Di Stefano the guiding light, the team beat Barcelona in the European Cup semi-finals and won the competition with that devastatingly scintillating performance at Glasgow against Eintracht Frankfurt.

From those dizzy heights Real could only slide and it was unfortunate that Munoz's star should wane with his team.

Though, to be honest, it was not his team and now—14 years later—he has lost his job because of standards a group of players set for him in those long-distant days.

Decline

Real were desperately unfortunate to be tipped out of the European Cup in 1960-61 by a chapter of refereeing errors, but that the team was on the decline was made clear at Amsterdam in 1962. Real went down 5-3 in the European Cup final to Benfica and it was clear that there was to be no reprieve from Father Time for Di Stefano, Puskas, Gento and Santamaria.

Di Stefano's hegemony—he had been virtually running the team in the mid-1950s when Munoz was nominally its captain—still held sway. Di Stefano eventually left, but not until Real had been beaten in the 1964 European Cup final, and though Real did regain their precious trophy in 1966 this was a mere flash in the pan.

The Spanish Football Federation also contributed to the downfall of both Real and Munoz by refusing to allow foreign players and Munoz was forced to recast the team with native-born players. Even so, the performances failed to live up to the club's reputation and failed to match the sky-high expectations of the supporters.

Eliminated

In the late 1960s Real were eliminated from the Champions' Cup by relatively poor teams—Rapid Vienna and Standard Liege—and also lost their grip on the Spanish League which under Munoz they had won in 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968 and 1969.

Madrid slipped first into the Cup-winners' Cup, losing in the 1971 final to Chelsea in Athens, and then the UEFA Cup—going out early to PSV of Eindhoven.

And it was at this point that it seemed Munoz might leave. The national team was without a manager and—as I wrote in *World Soccer* at the time—Munoz was very strongly fancied to take the job. He did not—and perhaps now he regrets not doing so.

His position with Real was saved in 1971-72 with the appearance on the scene of Carlos Alonso Alvarez—better known as Santillana—the young Santander centre-forward.

Real won the 1972 championship and reached the semi-finals of the European Cup last season. But failure to win either title—Real were fourth in the league—led to new criticism of Munoz on the grounds that he had no contingency plans to keep the team on song in the event of frequent injuries to Santillana, Amancio and Pirri. It was thought that the opening of the borders to foreigners again and the consequent signings of Günter Netzer and Oscar Mas might save him. But no.

Real have not only failed results-wise this season they have been playing badly. Rumours that Netzer thought Munoz's methods way behind the times were publicly denied, but few people believed the denials.

Perhaps Munoz might not have gone so quickly had Cruyff not shone so outstandingly at Barcelona. But if there is one thing the Madridistas cannot abide it is being out-thought and out-played by the Catalans.

For a number of matches a persistent number of fans were there in Chamartin shouting: "Fuera Munoz" — "Munoz out".

Red light

Sunday's defeat, 2-0 away to Castellon, whose success in the last couple of years has special connotations, was too much for the fans to stomach and—obviously—too much even for Munoz.

Castellon's coach is Lucien Müller, the former Real player, and their recent successes have been built on young players borrowed from Real. Defeat at Castellon was a round rebuff for Munoz and he saw the light—the red light.

Today he is the villain—but years ago he was the hero, particularly when he joined Real as a goal-scoring inside-right from Celta de Vigo in 1948. In those days he was Miguel Munoz Mozun, one of Spain's brightest young players.

He played in seven internationals only, but he became skipper of Real Madrid, leading them to the championships in 1954 and 1955, which put them in the European Cup. Then he was captain of

fron Spain... Dateline: January 14

RESIGNS — 'ILL TAKE 'MADRID?

the team which beat Reims in Paris in 1956 and Fiorentina in Madrid in 1957. He even played in several ties when semi-retired in 1957-58.

For a brief spell he became assistant coach to Luis Carniglia. Then, in 1959, he took over Real's affiliated second division team, Plus Ultra, now known as Castilla. His success there brought him back to Chamartin and now to his resignation.

Former boss

Where does he go from here?

Anywhere. There will be any number of clubs queuing for the former boss of Real Madrid. He could go anywhere in the world and be paid handsomely. And I think he could probably retire on his career savings without having to take any kind of drop in living standards, such has been his sagacity away from the football fields of the world.

And Real? Who do they call in?

There are any number of candidates, virtually all of them former Real players, who have proved themselves as managers.

Before we go through the list let me cross off one man who is bound to be mentioned: Helenio Herrera. He is at Internazionale, but his name has been linked with Real. Forget it. Real and HH have crossed swords far too often in the past 20 years for any happy working relationship to be established.

Candidate No. 1 then is Luis Molowny. He played for Real from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s until injury brought his career to an untimely end. He went home to Las Palmas, emerged as a top-rate coach in the mid-1960s and took Las Palmas to runners-up in the league. Then Real made him an offer he could not refuse and he submerged as Munoz's assistant.

Before today he was in charge of Real's non-professional soccer activities. Agustin Dominguez would give no hint about how long Molowny will be in charge as stand-in.

Candidate No. 2: Moleiro, who was a wing half with Real in the 1940s and latterly Munoz's main assistant for several years. Molowny ousted him in the hierarchy, so I do not give much for his chances.

Candidate No. 3: Jose Hector Rial, the one-time Argentinian inside forward who was a star alongside Di Stefano. He has done well with a variety of Spanish clubs and also with Spain's junior and army teams. His relations with the Real board are still good, but he may have been out of the top flight a little too long.

Outsider

Candidate No. 4: A complete outsider —Antonio Ruiz. He is the present coach of Castilla, the club once known as Plus Ultra and from which Munoz graduated. Ruiz, like Munoz, was a Real wing-half for several years and played in the 1959 European Cup final. He has done well at Castilla, but Real's immediate need is an experienced man who can re-establish faith in the players and the fans and bring 100 per cent success.

Candidate No. 5: Jose Santamaria, who did a fine job with Spain's youth teams after retiring, having been Real's centre-half for a decade. In the past two years he has built a tough resilient side at Espanol Barcelona, and earned some admiring glances from wealthier clubs.

Candidate No. 6: Ferenc Puskas. Need I say more? He holds great respect in Spain as a result of his time with Real; he holds great respect in the world as a result of his time with Hungary and Real; and he has achieved wondrous things with Panathinaikos—not the least being that he has kept his job there for four years!

Ferenc Puskas, in line for the managership of Real Madrid?

Candidate No. 7: Of course, Di Stefano. After retiring in 1966 he became coach of Elche, and was dismissed after six months. He went back to Argentina and took Boca Juniors to the championship. He returned to Spain and took Valencia to the Spanish title. He has the qualifications and—more important—his is the one name which could inspire a massive swing of support and faith back towards Real Madrid.

That is Real's most important need. And I do not rate Gento's chances because, though he too has the trust of the public, he has no experience to speak of.

Di Stefano must be favourite. His quarrel with Bernebeu was settled long ago. Munoz had a good run, but fresh blood at Chamartin has been long overdue.

JAGO...'DON'T WALK IN FEAR'

Ken Goldman interviews the Queen's Park Rangers manager

Q. Have you a philosophy of management?

A. Yes. I believe that one should not walk in fear because you win nothing that way. On the other hand when you proceed with confidence it is surprising how often matters go right.

Q. It seems to be a common fact that when a team is unsuccessful the manager is frequently dismissed. Do you go along with this concept?

A. I accept this principle myself, but do not fear it personally, which of course is not to say that I would not be upset if it happened to me. I think if it did the biggest thing hurt would be my pride.

Q. How do you see the players' relationship with their club?

A. One thing that we insist on at Rangers is that the club is always greater than the individual. We do not want the players to bring the club into disrepute for any reason and if they respect this they usually do not harm themselves either. This is not to say that we do not treat our players as individuals or grown men since we in fact try to instil into them ability to think for themselves and accept responsibility both on and off the field.

Q. What are your views on assistants to the manager?

A. One of the most important things for a manager is to surround himself with a loyal and efficient staff, which it is the manager's responsibility to pick. My job is to motivate staff and players and therefore I also need people to motivate me. I am pleased to say that this does happen at Rangers.

Negative

Q. Do you think that there is too much of a negative approach to football today?

A. It is very sad if individualism is killed by too much organisation or by a negative approach. The important thing for me is to give the players what I call "Joy", for without it you have a very sad state of affairs. Even though I believe it is appalling to stifle individuality players must learn when to use it and when to play with one another, for football is after all a team game.

Q. What kind of planning do you go in for in respect of forthcoming fixtures?

A. We attempt to prepare thoroughly for our next match by watching our opponents play either at home or away depending on our fixture with them. When we receive the report, I, my coach and the whole team discuss it fully and then we go out on the field and attempt to set up playing situations which we may encounter against those opponents.

Q. Where do you watch the match from?

A. I do not like sitting on the touchline but prefer to sit up high in the stand and look down on the play where I obtain an overall picture of the game. I only go down to the line if I feel it is absolutely necessary.

Stepping-stones

Q. What do you feel are the right stepping-stones to becoming a good manager?

A. One cannot become a manager overnight. Experience must be gained somehow and in my view it is a good idea to serve an apprenticeship under a sound manager. There are also the management courses organised by the Football League which offer an excellent opportunity to gain a good insight into various aspects of soccer management.

Q. Have you any particular hopes for the future of football?

A. I would like to see the various factions and interested bodies in soccer coming together frequently to work out our problems in an adult and responsible manner.

Q. What do you feel you particularly give to your team?

A. I feel that I have the power to help guide the attitude of mind of my players so perhaps if I was a negative person I would tend to shape the players that way. Contrary to this I like to feel that I am in fact a positive type of person and thus I always hope that that is reflected in my team's play.

Gordon Jago and Steve Burtenshaw.

Tough draws for the Dutch

Rudi Krol of Ajax.

THE World Cup draw did nothing to favour Holland. Though Uruguay were the expected seeded country in this group it was unfortunate that the tough Bulgarians and inconsistent Swedes also figured with them. It could have been worse, however, judging by the result of the pairings of the European Championship. Holland have to play in the same group as Italy, Poland and Finland . . .

After mutterings from players and officials alike it seems that there is to be a change of technical direction as far as the national team is concerned. Dr. Frantisek Fadrhonc will now be "supervised" by Rinus Michels, the former boss of Ajax and now coaching Barcelona in Spain.

Affection

The Iberian peninsula figured prominently in the European Footballer of the Year award but had special affection for Holland, too. Johan Cruyff, the Barcelona star, was elected as Europe's No. 1 and thus repeated his success of 1971.

Cruyff was not the only Dutchman in the ratings. Barry Hulshoff, who had been one of the outspoken critics of the national team set-up, received two votes and was joint 19th. The PSV Eindhoven striker Rolf Edstrom who is a Swede, of course, was placed ninth.

Tentative

So successful has Cruyff been in Spain that Barcelona have made a tentative offer for his former Ajax colleague Johan Neeskens, but his contract does not expire until 1976 and it seems unlikely that Ajax will part with another of their young stars, particularly as their form is rather in and out at present.

Nothing better illustrates this than the events of one spell of three games in eight days. On the Wednesday they played the first leg of their Super Cup match with AC Milan. This new competition is for the winners of the Champions Cup and the Cup Winners Cup. Anyway Milan won 1-0 in a generally dull game.

Back to domesticity and a match with neighbours FC Amsterdam which ended sensationally in Ajax's first League defeat of the season in their 17th match. The all important goal was scored by Jan Fransz pushing 37 and the oldest man on the field!

Then the following Wednesday, Ajax tackled the second leg of their match with Milan and really took it out on the Italians. Leading 2-0 at half-time they scored four times in the second half to win by six clear goals.

Brilliance

In recent matches Ajax have included their most recent signing, Hungarian born Zoltan Varga whose wanderings since defecting to the West have taken him to Germany and Scotland among other places. Given the No. 14 shirt by the club once worn by Cruyff, Varga has flashed brilliance alternating with mediocrity, so judgement on him must be postponed for a time.

Against Sparta he was in great form scoring a fine individual first goal and making the opening for Arnold Muhren to get the second. But against Amsterdam he was replaced at half-time by Jan Mulder.

Rivals Feynoord came through their UEFA Cup match with Standard Liege safely, but not before they lost the first leg 3-1 and were being held 0-0 with little more than 15 minutes left of the second game. But a lucky goal inspired them and they came through on the away goals rule.

Their reward has been a draw against the Polish team Ruch Chorzow. However, Feyenoord are still looking around anxiously for a centre forward who can take over from the long gone Swede Ove Kindvall. The attack has never really looked as efficient in the scoring department since he left. Lex Schoenmaker is leading scorer for them with 12 goals, Peter Ressel and Theo De Jong have nine each, but clearly they want someone who will by now have managed nearly 20 goals alone.

One player they are interested in is Raoul Lambert the Bruges and Belgian international striker. He has been out of favour with his club. The only snag here would seem to be the valuation put on him by Feyenoord and the fee that Bruges expect.

They must also envy the PSV Eindhoven attack which has produced leading scorer Willy Van der Kuylen 18 goals, Rene Van der Kherkof with 14 Edstrom with 11 and Harry Lubse with eight.

Consistent

PSV are in touch with the leaders on 28 points one behind Feyenoord and two behind Ajax and Twente. It is Twente who have been the most consistent side in the competition since the beginning of the season and they have still only lost one League game. But they can thank their defence for getting them there rather than their attack which is only half as effective as either Feyenoord, Ajax or PSV.

In the Cup, Ajax beat Roda JC 1-0 thanks to a Johnny Rep goal but Feyenoord were embarrassed by Second Division Herenveen and only came through after penalties sorted out a 1-1 draw. So it is easy to see Feyenoord's anxiety.

ARTHUR ROTMIL provides an

HAITI C FAITH OF

IF Sunderland's victory in the FA Cup last season was, according to a general consensus of opinion, "good for football", then the qualification of Haiti for the World Cup finals must surely fall into the same category. The decisive series for the world's greatest trophy has frequently been adorned by unfancied, but brave and ambitious contenders, who have mostly benefited from a favourable geographical location, which includes the minnows of the soccer world.

One doesn't have to go back very far in history to recall how the underestimated—because unknown here—North Koreans endeared themselves even to the discerning English public in 1966, and how they shook the whole world by beating Italy 1-0 at Middlesbrough!

In the last world finals too, apart from the delightful El Salvadorians, there was Morocco, who gave mighty Germany a fright losing only by 2-1 and then drawing with Bulgaria 1-1. Or Israel, who held Sweden to a 1-1 draw, and then the eventual runners-up Italy to a 0-0 score-line! Such teams are also making an important contribution to the tournament by providing that spicy sprinkling of surprises which are, after all, the essence of football.

In this light, the entry of exotic Haiti should also fire the imagination of the crowds, and who cares if they don't win a game? One of the most famous expressions in sport is: The important thing is not to win but to take part!

Well Haiti may not pose the true giants too many problems, and they go to Germany as "cannon fodder", but so did before them the USA, who beat England 1-0 in 1950, or North Korea in 1966, or Israel in 1970!

The first ever qualification for the world series was greeted in Haiti with an understandable wave of enthusiastic celebration. The President of State, Jean-Claude Duvalier, known as "Baby Doc", who three years ago succeeded his father "Papa Doc", is himself a football fanatic, and he ordered immediately a one day national holiday in acknowledgment of the national team's achievement.

In the capital city of Port-au-Prince, which has 350,000 inhabitants, the carnival atmosphere extended into the small hours, reaching its highlights in the various night clubs in the harbour area, as well as in the so-called Cité de l'Exposition.

Tournament

The foundation stone to this success was already laid a year ago, when a commission of the CONCACAF states, at their congress in Mexico City, decided to entrust Haiti with the staging of the final qualifying tournament. Mexican objections to this venue were, I might add, overruled. The home advantage proved a decisive factor, especially as the tropical humidity, plus the fanatical crowds who were particularly hostile to the fancied Mexicans, outweighed any technical superiority of Haiti's opponents.

Haiti have so far only taken part in three World Cup competitions: In 1934 and in 1954 they were crushed by the professional footballers from Mexico, and they have clearly not forgotten those humiliations. In 1970, when Central America for the first time entered another team, because Mexico were the hosts, Haiti were eliminated at the penultimate stage. After two wins over the USA in the semi-finals, Haiti were beaten by El Salvador in a play-off in Kingston (Jamaica), after extra time.

Calypso

This time the calypso men from the Caribbean island were determined to succeed. Their Football Federation engaged an experienced Italian coach in Ettore Trevisan, who assumed the role of technical director. He is assisted by two well-known Haitian coaches, Zoupim and Tassy. As far back as last February, the championship of Haiti was suspended and the national squad called up into a training camp.

The team, which consists entirely of black-skinned players, caused a number of surprises already in the preparatory matches. They beat Deportivo Concepcion (Chile), the national team of Ecuador, Porto Allegre (Brazil), Dep. Cali (Colombia) and the USA. Haiti's representatives drew with the full national sides of Chile 1-1, and with Uruguay 0-0. Their only setback was against Colombia.

In these games it was apparent that Haiti were faster with and without the ball than their opponents. The national manager of Mexico who studied the Haitians during one of their test matches remarked: "They run non-stop for 90 minutes, are technically quite well equipped, but perhaps physically weak.

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insight into the rank outsiders

AN JUSTIFY 'BABY DOC'

and they certainly lack organisation and understanding of tactics."

Haiti's squad has been recruited from the three leading clubs of this country: The champions Racing Club, L'Excelsior and L'Aigle Noir, all domiciled in Port-au-Prince. On this island football is the number one sport. When Racing play against Excelsior the "Silvio Cator" stadium is usually filled with an enthusiastic capacity crowd of 28,000.

Haiti's footballers are all pure amateurs, and they play the game out of sheer enjoyment as a hobby. It helps of course that soccer is the most popular sport in the high schools and colleges of the capital, as well as in the second largest city here, Le Cap Haitien. It is certainly no coincidence that no fewer than six members of the national side belong to college teams, including the goalkeeper Henri Francillot (24).

Haiti's greatest star is undoubtedly the 26-year-old créole-Negro Emmanuel Sannon, who by scoring five goals has sent his country to West Germany practically on his own. The tall, well-built yet elegant centre-forward is not only a goal getter, but together with Jean-Claude Desiré a schemer, who likes to burst through from midfield; his partner is the chief organiser.

Advantage

In Port-au-Prince, Sannon is known as "the Pelé of Haiti", and he was perhaps the outstanding player in the whole of the qualifying tournament. Other useful players include forward Phillippe Vorbe, midfielder Bayonne and defender Wilner Nazaire, the captain.

This exotic assembly benefited naturally from home advantage, plus the tropical heat of some 38° Centigrade (100° Fahrenheit!) and not least from some benevolent refereeing — if one is to believe the unhappy outfit from Trinidad, who claim to have scored four goals against Haiti — all of them disallowed!

But at least the big favourites Mexico cannot complain at having failed to win this qualifying series, since they were dropping points in several other matches before their 1-0 win over Haiti was already rendered meaningless, as it arrived too late.

The island, which belongs to the Great Antilles, was until 1804 a French colony. It was Toussaint Louverture who proclaimed its independence. Today the French influence is still very much in evidence.

The inhabitants speak a type of French dialect called créole, which is enriched by words and phrases of the aborigines. About 87 per cent of the population are black skinned, while no fewer than 70 per cent of the citizens of the Republic of Haiti cannot read or write.

The total population is just over six million, and the main source of income comes from agriculture, namely the cultivation of bananas, sugar cane, coffee, etc., as well as from the rapidly expanding tourist industry. Incidentally, this state occupies only a third of the island's territory. Two thirds are held by its neighbour, the Dominican Republic.

Appearance

Haiti, by virtue of it players being strict amateurs, of a highly exotic appearance, with a different approach to the game and possibly unorthodox style, should be a welcome addition to the pool of sixteen nations who will fight for the world's premier trophy. In my view, this competition is of such a global nature, that it should not be reserved for teams from say, two continents only—Europe and South America—which would inevitably happen if only the strongest sides were to enter the last sixteen.

The participation of Australia, Zaire and Haiti is merited in the context of these countries having had to surmount if not tougher, then certainly more numerous hurdles than the South Americans or Europeans. That is why I say welcome to the "underdogs" and may you upset precisely those "big boys" who had been complaining the loudest that you had no right to be in the finals.

If Haiti put up a gallant and fair fight, then they will also have justified the faith of their number one fan, the state President "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who is apparently meeting the full costs of his squad's World Cup expedition!

Gianni Rivera of Italy . . . one of the players the Haitians will have to contend with.

WORLD CUP DRAW.....

THE excitement produced by the World Cup draw really arrived when it was announced that East and West Germany had been paired with each other in Group One. Rather depending on whether you consider the affair to be arranged or simply a matter of the luck of the draw, you can see that two German teams playing each other in Germany adds up to box office plus.

And it ensures that they can only meet again in the final — if they progress that far. And since Chile and Australia are the other two involved I am certain that the two who qualify for round two will be the Germans, the two who fail the Chileans and Aussies.

In **Group Two,** Britain claims interest through Scotland, of course. But then when Scotland does well they quickly become part of Great Britain. If an English team achieves a similar success it reverts to England!

Surprise

The Scots have landed in the same quartet as Brazil the World Cup holders and have to wait for the replay between Spain and Yugoslavia to determine who will join them along with Zaire. With all due respect to the African qualifiers it will be a major surprise if they go any further.

But while Brazil should get through it is by no means certain that the Scots will be able to push either the Spaniards or the Yugoslavs over, but they probably will do better against the Brazilians and this could be enough to get them through to the second stage of the competition.

In **Group Three** the seeded country Uruguay have a difficult proposition facing them. Holland, Bulgaria and Sweden are their opponents. They will probably not relish playing against the two European teams, both of whom are physical in their approach. And they will not need to be reminded that they were beaten by the Scandinavians in Mexico in the last series.

But, of course, Uruguay have great traditions in the competition and might possibly edge Bulgaria out for a place in stage two with the Dutch assured of a position and Sweden out of the competition

Poland who knocked England out have found their reward in a tough **Group Four** along with Italy and

....analysed by JACK ROLLIN

GRUPPE I	GRUPPE II	GRUPPE III	GRUPPE IV
1 Chile	5 Spanien-Jugosl.	9 Niederlande	13 Haiti
2 BR Deutschland	6 Brasilien	10 Uruguay	14 Italien
3 DDR	7 Zaire	11 Schweden	15 Polen
4 Australien	8 Schottland	12 Bulgarien	16 Argentinien

GERMANY UNITED!

Argentina. Number four team here is Haiti who are really in to make the number up and little more. Italy will certainly reach the next phase because of their defensive strength. Argentina have never had much of a reputation in the competition and may not be good enough to get in ahead of Poland.

Depending on the finishing order of the top two teams the successful eight countries will then be split into two further groups and the winners of each will play-off for the title while the runners-up in each section dispute the match for third and fourth places. But trying to fathom out just what will happen in stage two is infinitely more difficult than forecasting just which team would be placed in which groups in the first place.

West Germany's record v. their immediate opponents is:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. East Germany (Olympic Games 1972 not full international by West German rating, but a full match for the East Germans!)	1	0	0	1	2	3
v. Chile	4	2	0	2	6	6
v. Australia (no matches)						

Australia's record:
No matches against any of their other three opponents

Chile's record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. East Germany	3	1	0	2	3	6

Brazil's record v. their immediate opponents is:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. Scotland	3	2	1	0	3	2
v. Spain	4	3	0	1	14	8
v. Yugoslavia	10	5	3	2	25	19
v. Zaire (no matches)						

Spain's record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. Scotland	4	1	1	2	8	11
v. Yugoslavia	6	2	4	0	7	5

Yugoslavia's record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. Scotland	4	0	3	1	5	7

Zaire's record:
No matches against any of their other three opponents

Uruguay's record v. their immediate opponents is:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. Holland	2	2	0	0	4	1
v. Sweden	2	1	0	1	3	3
v. Bulgaria (no matches)						

Holland's record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. Sweden	15	7	2	6	28	36
v. Bulgaria	4	1	1	2	7	8

Sweden's record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. Bulgaria	2	0	0	2	0	5

Italy's record v. their immediate opponents is:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. Argentina	4	3	0	1	9	2
v. Poland	2	1	1	0	6	1
v. Haiti (no matches)						

Argentina's record:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
v. Poland	2	1	1	0	2	1

Haiti's record:
No matches against any of their other three opponents

Footnote: It should also be noted that Haiti have played in the Pan American Games against Argentina and lost 0-1, Zaire played a match with the touring Brazilian amateur team and won it 2-0 and that several countries particularly Brazil consider full internationals to be something that their opponents regard as friendlies, but for the purposes of uniformity the greater number of encounters have been taken as the record.

World Cup fixtures and venues see pages 26/27

BARCELONA LE
SET FOR THE C

THE half way point of the season finds Barcelona . . . J.C.'s Rag-time Band (i.e. J.C. means Johan Cruyff, not the other one) . . . winter champions, which according to tradition means they are almost certain to end the season as League champions for the first time in twelve years.

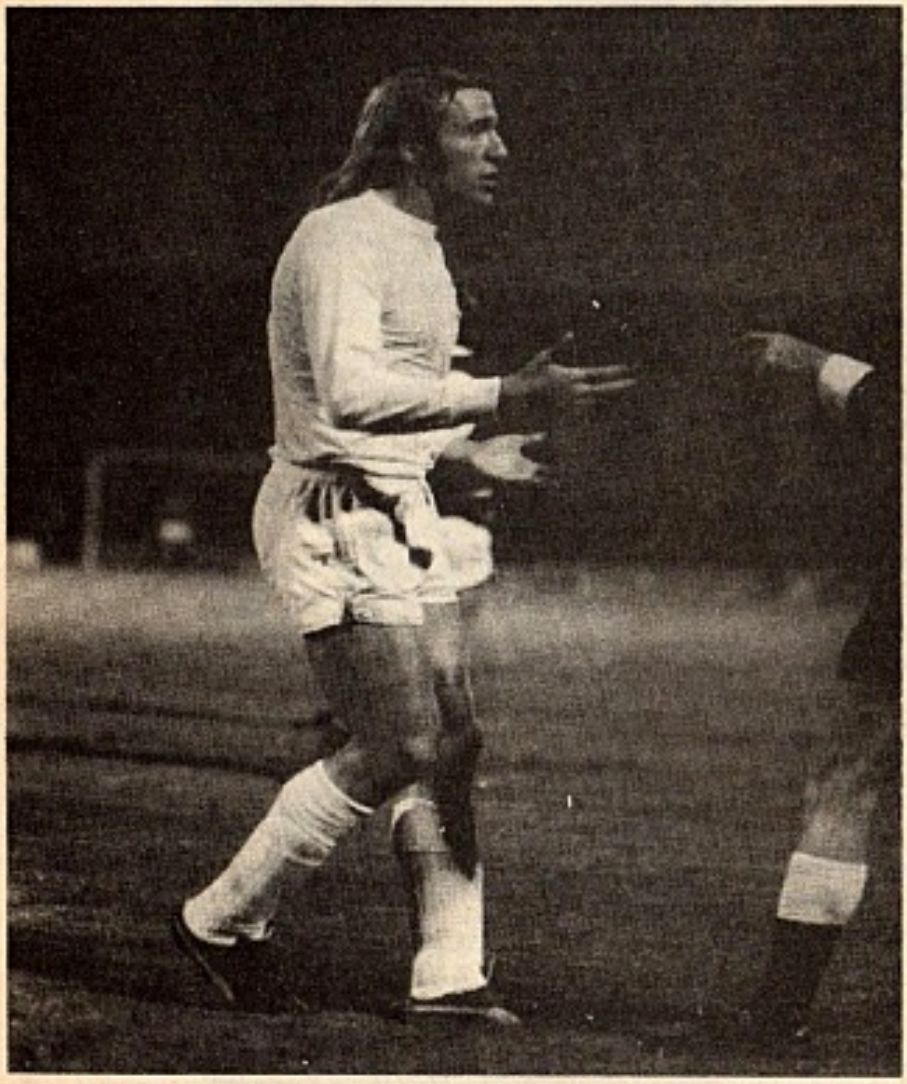
Barca's recovery, after such an atrocious start, they were bottom after twelve games, is due to consistency, a great deal of luck and Marcial's return to form. Most people give credit to the arrival in November of Johan Cruyff (he was banned by the Dutch F.A. until then). Cruyff has scored in every match he has played and Barcelona has not lost a game in which he has played. But Cruyff is not responsible for the meteoric rise. The team is still un-impressive, slapstick and has no idea of finishing.

Marcial, once Spain's most expensive player, has found his form after five years with the Catalan side and has scored in every game and has made most of the other 36 goals the side has scored. At last Marcial is worth the record transfer fee that Barcelona paid for him.

Holding this rare position has let loose another roar of Barcelona's boasting . . . "We're the greatest." "The Championship is ours." "It's easy now." One thing the Spanish fans fear is that Barcelona "J.C.'s Alexander Rag-time Band" will represent Spain in Europe next year. They couldn't do worse than this year's representatives, but they will be another nonentity amongst so many nonentities in the European Cups these days.

We in Spain will have to put up with more big talk from Rinus Michels, the biggest boaster in world football. Heavens! We thought we were hard done by having to listen to Max Merkel but Michels makes Merkel look like a timid, shy fairy.

Second place ATHLETIC DE BILBAO are the surprise team of the year. One of the most complete outsiders in the League they have surprised everyone — although in the Cup, first round, first leg, they were beaten by Calella, Third Division unknowns. They are fighting financial troubles as well as the local press traditional vendetta, but their good football, enthusiasm and confidence has brought them triumph over the best sides and the press comprised of Spanish football's biggest gangsters.



Gunter Netzer, playing well in Spain but Real Madrid are struggling.

Overrated

Fifth place REAL MADRID are perhaps the most disappointing side of the season. They bought Gunter Netzer, the best player in Europe, and he *is* the best play, for 30-million pesetas, but unfortunately the often overrated Real stars were unable to adjust themselves to his style of play. Netzer is still the great German, he lays on countless goals only to find them squandered and has disappointed everyone — not through any fault of his own, but because Real's old-timers just cannot adjust.

They have lost point after point at home and have 18 out of 34 points (an all time low record) never before achieved. Tradition puts them completely out of running for the title, although Miguel Muñoz, Netzer, Pirri, Amancio and Zoco say they must still be considered for the title, as no one has given up hope . . . but six points behind Barcelona, playing badly and dropping points at home is a pretty hopeless position in Spain. Yet I wouldn't write them off especially after their super game against Atletico Madrid, their 5-1 victory in Las Palmas and Gunter Netzer.

Although Real Madrid is very much one of the ordinary teams this year, they still draw 125,000 to home games and 50,000 when playing away.

AD AND LOOK HAMPIONSHIP

Norman Cutler reports from Spain

Sixth place ATLETICO MADRID. The holders when the season opened and the only team in Spain to produce a glimmer of first class football. Their form in Yugoslavia in the European Cup first round was simply superb, it suggested they would carry all before them. They stood alone as the outstanding team of the League. Heredia and Ayala — two importations for whom they paid a big fee — brought a new style punch so badly needed.

Atletico went straight to the top of the division. There was no one else even showing a flash of championship winning football. The odds in favour of Atletico repeating their 1972/73 triumph were overwhelming. Then Ayala and their outside left Becerra were injured and the "Colchoneros" form crashed and they went up and down the League like an Apollo returning from a moon flight. For once their Manager, Juan Carlos Lorenzo, (the Argentine Animals' Keeper of London 1966) had, unlike their other four previous Managers, promised them nothing. They are now restoring their prestige in a quiet confident atmosphere without the burden of stupid managerial boasting.

Imported

VALENCIA, another disappointing team, were favourites with Atletico Madrid when the season opened. They made strong running until their imported goal scorer, Keita, was injured, then they suddenly lost all the potent qualities that had put them on top and slipped to the eighth position in the League table. They are not a happy side, Di Stefano loses his temper and calm when losing and the players are taking a heavy beating.

Of the three newcomers who last season outplayed most of the top clubs, only MALAGA has produced their last year's form.

In the Second Division the leadership changes hands each week between relegated BETIS and CADIZ. REAL MALLORCA have drawn 11 of 18 matches played. Promoted OSASUNA are bottom.

GOALSCORERS

Quini (Gijon) 11; Marcial (Barcelona) and CRUYFF (Barcelona) 10; Galán (Oviedo) 9; Garate (Atletico Madrid) 8; Grande (Santander) and Marianin (Oviedo) 7; Araquistain (Real Sociedad), German (Las Palmas), MAS (Real Madrid), Pirri (Real Madrid) and Castro (Celta) 6; Becerra (Atletico Madrid), Castany (Zaragoza), KEITA (Valencia), Rexach (Barcelona), SOTIL (Barcelona) and Valdez (Valencia) 5.

(Names in caps indicate foreign importations).

Di Stefano plans to reveal the mysteries

ALFREDO DI STEFANO — once the world's number one footballer — is still one of the games outstanding personalities . . . he didn't make a fortune advertising sunglasses or coñac . . . and is to write a book and tell almost all the mysteries and controversies that kept his name in the headlines for so many years.

Although he has been retired from active football (he is now Manager of Valencia) for many years, he has waited until he has something to say. We shall be able to read at last his full story and the answers to many vital questions. What was the mystery behind his suddenly joining Bogota Millionarios? Why did Stef leave Real Madrid? Was there a rift between Di Stefano and Santiago Bernabeu and Miguel Muñoz? What is the truth about the Didi mystery?

Justice

"Football today," says Stef "is being killed by violence which is spreading like an epidemic. The public are calling for justice and no one is giving it to them. This damaging play has reached Spain and neither the authorities nor the clubs are doing anything to stop it.

England and Germany have always played the game hard, but nowadays it's violent—much of it premeditated —, driving the crowds away. It is definitely killing the game as a spectacle.

Di Stefano's point of view of all these intriguing questions will be revealed at last. The rumours that bad friendship exists between him and Bernabeu he describes as nonsense. "They are completely and utterly false, we are very good friends and I am often invited to Santa Pola, Don Santi's sanctuary. Last season we visted England together and appeared on the television tribute to Matt Busby called "This is your Life".

VITAL LORAUX—TROUBLESHOOTE

VITAL Loraux, the Belgian referee who was in charge of the England v Poland match at Wembley last year which sealed the fate of the home country for the World Cup, is again figuring in an important match.

He has the job of guiding the fortunes of Spain and Yugoslavia in their play-off with each other in Frankfurt on February 13.

Charge

Loraux is reputed to be the favourite referee of FIFA as far as the man most likely to control the World Cup Final itself next year and it should be remembered that he was in charge of the England v Poland game under the eagle eye of FIFA President, Sir Stanley Rous.

News that Argentina are to play England at Wembley in May means the return of the "animals" to the British Isles. It was in 1966 that they were thus dubbed.

Actually it was a little unfortunate that the remark was attributed to Sir Alf Ramsey in the context of Argentina's performance at Wembley, because the only real violence on that day was violence of the tongue attributed to Antonio Rattin the Argentinian captain.

But I am quite sure that their appearance at Wembley Stadium will be greeted by cries of "animals, animals" by certain mindless sections of the community, particularly those who were not even old enough to be let out on their own eight years before, without the accompaniment of a pram.

The South Americans have dreamed up a new club competition on the lines of the Libertadores Cup only on a rather smaller scale. Called the Simon Bolivar Cup it will be open to four countries—Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Also rans

These four are usually the also rans when it comes to the Libertadores competition, so now they can have one of their own.

The respective champions of these four countries—Portuguesa, Nacional, Universidad Catolica and Defensor Lima will play this tournament in Medellin, Colombia from May 22 to 26.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY...

FIFA ER...

Pele wants to coach

Pele, who has announced his retirement next October, has recently passed his university examination to become a Physical Education Professor. The 33-year-old former Brazilian star who holds the world record for number of 110 international appearances for one country says that he wants to teach children the game when he finally hangs his boots up.

If he can only impart a thimbleful of the knowledge he has to the rest of the world via his own ability, the standard of the game in Brazil can only improve.

WORLD CUP DRAW

GROUP ONE

JUNE 14:	W. Germany v. Chile	Berlin
	E. Germany v. Australia	Hamburg
JUNE 18:	Chile v. E. Germany	Berlin
	Australia v. W. Germany	Hamburg
JUNE 22:	Australia v. Chile	Berlin
	E. Germany v. W. Germany	Hamburg

GROUP TWO

JUNE 13:	Brazil v. Yugoslavia or Spain	Frankfurt
JUNE 14:	Zaire v. Scotland	Dortmund
JUNE 18:	Yugoslavia or Spain v. Zaire	Gelsenkirchen
	Scotland v. Brazil	Frankfurt
JUNE 22:	Zaire v. Brazil	Gelsenkirchen
	Scotland v. Yugoslavia or Spain	Frankfurt

GROUP THREE

JUNE 15:	Uruguay v. Holland	Hanover
	Sweden v. Bulgaria	Dusseldorf
JUNE 19:	Holland v. Sweden	Dortmund
	Bulgaria v. Uruguay	Hanover
JUNE 23:	Bulgaria v. Holland	Dortmund
	Sweden v. Uruguay	Dusseldorf

GROUP FOUR

JUNE 15:	Italy v. Haiti	Munich
	Poland v. Argentina	Stuttgart
JUNE 19:	Haiti v. Poland	Munich
	Argentina v. Italy	Stuttgart
JUNE 23:	Argentina v. Haiti	Munich
	Poland v. Italy	Stuttgart

Green Eagles hidden away

It could be that Nigeria are to achieve the ideal in national team formation and something that has been the wish of many other countries before. They have gathered a 37 man strong squad, told their clubs that they cannot use them in matches and secreted them near Benin the midwest State capital.

The National Sports Commission will find them jobs and they will virtually be available for training and match practice as professionals. In charge of these Green Eagles as they are to be known was to be Herr Otmar Calder a West German. However, he seemed to want rather more money than the Nigerian authorities were prepared to pay him and now they are looking for a new coach.

CARVING out a new future for himself is Allan Harris, former Chelsea, Coventry, Queens Park Rangers and Plymouth full back now in the twilight of his playing career at Cambridge United. Allan, and his wife Shirley have recently taken over the White House Hotel at Epsom.

Not that Allan intends devoting himself full-time to the business. He plans to stay in football after retiring from the playing side, and has already mapped out some ambitions with a close friend, also a current player, to forge a partnership at a managerial level in the not too distant future.

Our picture shows Terry Venables, a former team-mate of Harris at Chelsea, donning Santa Claus gear for the opening last Christmas. Ron Harris, still at Chelsea, and QPR's Terry Mancini make up the group with Shirley Harris offering Father Christmas a drop of the "hard stuff".

Penarol revival

The revival of Penarol of Uruguay after several years of playing second fiddle to their arch rivals Nacional, has brought fame to one of their World Cup players Fernando Morena.

This 21-year-old centre forward finished the season as top scorer with 23 goals, this in itself is something of an achievement as native born goalscorers are a rarity in the country.

On top of this he has been elected Footballer of the Year and since Uruguay will be looking for a goalscorer in the World Cup Finals, he will be a key figure in their side.

Uruguay have recently appointed a new trainer to the national squad Roberto Porta who has taken over from Hugo Bagnulo. Porta is reported to be interested in obtaining the release of exiles like Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, Pedro Rocha and Atilo Ancheta now playing abroad.

Arguing goes on

Chile and Russia are still arguing over compensation for their unplayed match in Santiago in the World Cup qualifying competition. Chile have already received a sum of money from FIFA in compensation, but they are entitled to receive more money from Russia themselves.

The Russians who have been fined by FIFA for not playing the game appear reluctant to discuss further financial matters with the Chileans.

City star protests

Quote of the month: Willie Carr of Coventry City, protesting about the penalty decision that cost his club their Football League Cup-tie against Manchester City at Maine Road . . . "The tackle was at least a yard outside the area." Scottish international Carr then went on to insist that the tackle wasn't a foul anyway.

Television replays of the incident proved beyond doubt that the tackle was well inside the area. Perhaps it is conscience that makes a number of players and managers make outrageous comments that can easily be disproved by television.

EUROPEAN FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Cruyff wins for second time

by Jack Rollin

JOHAN Cruyff became only the second player to win the European Footballer of the Year award twice when he was voted No. 1 in 1973. Cruyff was previously elected in 1971. The other player who won the award on two occasions was Alfredo Di Stefano, who was Europe's top ace in 1957 and 1959.

There is another connection between these two players, as neither was born in Spain yet both achieved at least part of their fame in Iberia. Di Stefano began life in Argentina, Cruyff in Holland.

Cruyff received 96 points in the voting, more than twice as many as the runner-up Italian Dino Zoff the Juventus goalkeeper, who received 47. Gerd Muller the goalscoring ace of Bayern Munich and West Germany who was European Footballer of the Year in 1970 came third this time with 44 votes.

In fourth place was Franz Beckenbauer, Muller's club and country compatriot with 30 votes. He was the 1972 winner, of course. Number five was Billy Bremner of Leeds United and Scotland. He received 22 votes. Only one other Scot received votes. Dennis Law who was joint 23rd and bottom with one vote.

Two votes

England's sole representative among the 27 different players who figured in the poll was Bobby Moore, who achieved his 108th cap against Italy but was dropped earlier by Sir Alf Ramsey after the World Cup defeat in Poland. Moore received two votes and finished in joint 19th place.

The only other player from the British Isles in the poll was Pat Jennings the Spurs and Irish goalkeeper who was bracketed with Law in last place.

Twenty-four journalists from leading European countries voted as usual in France Football's annual award and it is perhaps interesting to look at individual voters to see just where they placed their crosses.

Five points go to the player placed first, four to the second, three to the third, two to the fourth and one to the fifth placed in the list.

Top man

For instance, Max Marquis the English representative and a contributor to WORLD SOCCER, placed Beckenbauer first, Bremner second, Rivera third, Muller fourth and, perhaps surprisingly, Vladislaw Bogicevic, the Red Star Belgrade defender, fifth. Not even the Yugoslavian representative gave him a second thought!

Cruyff finished top man as far as East Germany, Belgium, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia were concerned.

Bobby Moore received his two votes from the Bulgarian correspondent, the Dane voted for Jennings and the Turk for Law!

Those who also gave votes to Bremner were the voters from Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Luxembourg, Finland, France, Greece and Holland.

Different

Another angle of looking at the poll lies in the number of different players from one particular country. There were five West Germans, four Italians, three Poles, two Dutchmen, two Yugoslavs, two Swedes, two Scots, one Spaniard, one Portuguese, one Bulgarian, one East German, one Irishman, one Czechoslovakian and an Englishman.

Of the 14 countries represented, ten still had an interest in the World Cup when the draw was made. None of the non-qualifiers had more than one player listed so for this reason presumably Messrs. Eusebio, Viktor, Jennings and Moore are to be congratulated for their achievements.

But on the eve of the World Cup finals, nothing impresses better than success.

It should also be noted that the Russians for whom withdrawal symptoms have been noted in other regions did not bother to send any votes to anyone, though apparently asked on numerous occasions . . .

Italian goalkeeper Dino Zoff.

Poll:

1. Cruyff 96 votes
2. Zoff 47
3. Muller 44
4. Beckenbauer 30
5. Bremner 22

6. Deyna; 7. Eusebio 14; 8. Rivera 12; 9. Edstrom, Netzer 11; 11. Hoeness 8; 12. Facchetti, Boner 7; 14. Mazzola, Tomaszewski, Asensi 5; 17. Lubanski 4; 18. Overath 3; 19. Sandberg, Kreische, Moore, Hulshoff 2 each; 23. Jennings, Law, Viktor, Dzajic and Bogicevic 1 each.

England pleased with draw

THE draw for the European Championship must have brought a smile to the face of Sir Alf Ramsey, who seems determined to stay in charge of the national side for at least another couple of years. Neither Portugal, in decline since the golden days of Benfica came to a halt, nor Czechoslovakia can be rated as really tough obstacles. And Cyprus, despite that 1-0 victory over Northern Ireland in the World Cup last year, shouldn't cause many headaches even to Ramsey's England.

Mind you, England have achieved little in the past few months to suggest that even the matches against Cyprus will be a foregone conclusion. England should progress, but then again they should have got through in their World Cup qualifying round, too.

Recent years

Hungary look the most likely bet in **Group Two.** Yet the Hungarians have so often failed in recent years and could lose out to either Austria or Wales.

Yugoslavia should have no trouble in **Group Three,** but Scotland's task in **Group Four** is not an enviable one. Rumania and Spain will provide stiff opposition and Denmark are getting better.

The strongest group is the fifth one, with Italy, Holland, Poland and Finland. Don't put money on Finland!

In **Group Six** no doubt the Russians will be anxious to compensate for their World Cup withdrawal, but Switzerland could turn the tables.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP 1
ENGLAND, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, Cyprus.

GROUP 2
Hungary, Austria, WALES, Luxembourg.

GROUP 3
Yugoslavia, Sweden, N. IRELAND, Norway.

GROUP 4
Rumania, Spain, SCOTLAND, Denmark.

GROUP 5
Italy, Holland, Poland, Finland.

GROUP 6
Russia, Turkey Switzerland, Eire.

GROUP 7
Belgium, E. Germany, France, Iceland.

GROUP 8
W. Germany, Bulgaria, Greece, Malta.

EUROPEAN CUP

FC Basle v. Celtic
Red Star Belgrade v. Atletico Madrid
Spartak Tmava v. Ujpest Dosza
Bayern Munich v. CSKA Sofia

CUP-WINNERS CUP

AC Milan v. Salonika
Magdeburg v. Stara Zagora
Sporting Lisbon v. FC Zurich
Moenchengladbach v. Glentoran

UEFA CUP

Stuttgart v. Vitoria Setubal
IPSWICH v. Lok Leipzig
FC Cologne v. TOTTENHAM
Chorzow v. Feyenoord R.
First leg matches on March 6. Second leg, March 20.

Group Seven has the emerging East Germans, along with the tough Belgians. France are here, too, and they will do extremely well to head this group. Finally, in **Group Eight,** the current champions, West Germany, will have to go all the way against Bulgaria, but are unlikely to be ruffled by either Greece or Malta.

British interest

The draw for the quarter-finals of the European Cup produced some interesting pairings. Celtic will be pleased to meet Basle of Switzerland and British interest should be maintained.

Bayern Munich are not relishing the clash with CSKA of Bulgaria, who eliminated the holders, Ajax, in the last round. Said Bayern's secretary-general: "These Bulgarians play all-out power soccer and they are most hard to beat.

"We would have preferred to come up against a side playing more technical soccer, because that is the way we play. In fact, we would have preferred Celtic to the Sofia club."

In the UEFA Cup, Ipswich have been drawn against Lokomotive Leipzig, the club that knocked out Wolverhampton Wanderers earlier in the competition. Ipswich are making a fine impression in Europe this year and should get through. Tottenham Hotspur have FC Cologne. Despite their lowly league position in England, Spurs seem to find their touch in the UEFA Cup and should be fancied to reach the semi-finals again.

Mike England of Tottenham Hotspur heads for goal against Dinamo Tbilisi, in the last round of the UEFA Cup.

Looking at Soccer by Brian Glanville

Managerial changes in Lancashire

LAST Boxing Day, in an interesting meeting at Goodison Park, Billy Bingham's Everton defeated Ron Saunders' Manchester City 2-0. Interesting, to me at least, because these are two young managers, recently installed in office at two major Lancashire clubs, who may be expected to do significant things. We need them, goodness knows, at a time when our brightest stars in that particular firmament are dying on us in alarming numbers; Malcolm Allison the manager of a wretchedly unsuccessful Second Division team, Brian Clough self-exiled to Brighton, after playing his cards with extraordinary maladroitness.

I have known Billy Bingham for many years, a couple of decades and more, from the time when he was an ebullient little right-winger with Sunderland and Northern Ireland. Ron Saunders, who ironically is a Birkenhead man who began as a centre-forward with Everton, I did not meet until he took over his job at Manchester City.

Everton goalkeeper David Lawson.

Bingham, in his playing days, seemed the last person to become a successful manager, not because he wasn't lively, responsive and intelligent — he was abundantly all those things — but because he seemed too nice, too kind, altogether too expansive, to succeed in that dreadful jungle; where, according to Steve Heighway, a man must be a fanatic to succeed.

Instead, Bingham, though still kind, lively and open, has won his spurs, managing Plymouth, Southport and Northern Ireland, then spending two successful and greatly travelled years as team manager of Greece. "You name it," he says, "and I've been there." Even as far as remote Ethiopia.

Saunders was never as successful a player as Bingham, who won more than 50 caps for Ireland. His career had some strange ups and downs, for he left Everton to drift out of the League—then came back again with Gillingham, Portsmouth and Charlton.

Appointment

Managerially, he made his name at Oxford United and Norwich City as a dour fellow who believed in wringing the last drop of effort, the last tiny modicum of advantage, out of his indifferent resources. A strange appointment, it seemed on the face of it, to Manchester City, with its marvellous abundance of idiosyncratic talent; Lee, Summerbee, Bell and, above all, the inimitable Marsh.

Marsh and Saunders! Chalk and cheese, it seemed, virtually the irresistible force and the immovable object. And yet . . . Saunders is an admirer of Marsh. "I'm anticipating his next five years being the best of Rodney's career," Saunders told me. "The work that he's been prepared to do voluntarily, the extra work, leaves me with nothing but admiration for his character and his whole attitude to the game."

This seems to indicate that, of the two sharply conflicting schools of thought about Saunders, the positive one is right. His detractors, and there are managers among them, see him as a dour fellow whose belief is essentially in defensive, negative, niggardly football, in hard running and ruthlessly trained players. Others pointed out that Saunders had never had a decent squad of players to work with until he came to Manchester City.

Survive

Saunders will not say a word against his players at Oxford and Norwich, and after all he was the first manager, after all those years of striving, those brilliant punctuations of Cup-tie success, to take Norwich into the First Division. But reading between the lines, it is evident that he trained his men as hard as he did because he knew that this was the only way they could hope to survive.

Things are very different at Maine Road, where already Saunders' methods of training have made a benign difference. Not that City, in the past, were among the laggards when it came to training. Indeed, under Malcolm Allison, they were famous for their devoted running and their Herculean weightlifting. Yet Tony Book, a superbly durable captain, briefly an interregnum manager, and now willingly Saunders' assistant—though disappointed at first not to get the job — feels things are now much better.

Manchester City manager Ron Saunders with his assistant, Tony Book.

"He's split them up into small groups. We never had this individual training before, such as back four, midfield three and strikers. Through doing this, I know several players feel that when we were doing group training as before, one, two or three of them had got away with it; but now they know that everybody's giving of their best."

Saunders is vastly enthusiastic about his City players: "what is more important, I've got some marvellous people. People repeatedly talk to me about prima donnas and that. This is a load of rubbish. These are bloody good players and bloody good people."

As we know, City, after the brilliant successes of the best Allison-Mercer years, fell on hard times. Allison without Mercer seemed like an imposing ship without a rudder. It will be recalled that a small, loyal, zealous group, appalled at the possibility — which seemed very palpable — of Allison leaving City, engineered a coup to unseat the reigning board.

They bought a huge parcel of shares from one of the reigning directors, the late Frank Johnson, a solicitor who made a fortune out of the deal, but didn't live long to enjoy it.

A clever counter attack by the establishment, however, left the situation in deadlock. Allison in due course went, after a disastrous season, and the board now seems to be working more harmoniously together. I think with hindsight we can see that the successful, or half successsful, revolution was not good for the club; though perhaps it would have been had Allison not "dropped the pilot" so soon after being confirmed on the bridge.

Nevertheless, the players are very much there, and Marsh, whom Allison bought at such an ill-judged moment, now seems very much an asset rather than a liability. It was all a matter of timing; Allison brought him to Maine Road at a moment when the team seemed set fair to win the Championship, but his arrival meant someone had to be dropped — Mike Doyle it inexcusably was, at one time—and resentment set in. Tony Book, that loyal, sincere West Countryman, emphasises now that Marsh became a scapegoat.

Successful

At Everton, Billy Bingham returns to a club for which he once successfully played, succeeding a manager who resembled him about as closely as sugar resembles saltpetre. Harry Catterick, especially in his last years at Everton, the end of a long, successful reign, was an office manager. Bingham is a tracksuit manager who, as one of his young players, Michael Buckley, says, joins in the five-a-side games and will laugh and joke with his players.

(Though Bingham assures me he has no intention of becoming "palsy walsy.") Catterick, as Bingham points out, bought shrewdly when he was at Everton (though it was Johnny Carey who brought Bingham there), and he took both Cup and Championship to Goodison.

Now he has climbed upstairs, after years of illness, and a team which once pivoted so splendidly around Harvey, Ball and Kendall must be re-made. Bingham, who sings a joyful hymn to Everton's stature and sophistication as a club, has attacked the task with zest and shrewdness. Most encouragingly of all, he has the colours of creative football nailed to his mast: "You've got to be creative to win matches. Work rate won't win you anything."

Exhibition

Much will depend on how poor, unlucky Joe Royle comes through. A splendid exhibition against Yugoslavia at Wembley, early last season, was followed by the purgatory of two spinal operations, the need to rehabilitate completely a left leg, his "jumping" leg, which had wasted away. Now the intelligent, likeable, talented Royle seems to be steaming ahead again, though he himself believes it will be many months before he is back to his true form.

I remember some years ago, in these pages, criticising him for publishing an autobiography, ROYLE FLUSH (ouch!) at the age of 19. When he has reasserted himself as an international player, as I believe he will, I hope he will give us another book; a deeper, better, and inspiring book, derived from his misfortunes and his courage in confronting them.

Football is in parlous state

warns ERIC BATTY

AT the start of 1974, football has got itself into a pretty disastrous state. Attendances are down in most countries, with very rare exceptions, and it has become ever more fashionable to attribute the blame to television. The fact is that too much poor football is the real cause.

There are many current illusions about which the intelligent fan needs to be better informed, not least of which is the over-simplified suggestion that Poland cannot play and were lucky to eliminate England.

The English national team suffers from a lack of real talent, but over and above everything else a real failure to understand modern tactics. Brazilian team manager Zagalo said recently he would resign after the 1974 World Cup . . . "because new tactics and new ideas are necessary at top level. If a manager stays for more than two World Cups everyone learns to anticipate how his team will play."

Over-rated

This has certainly been true of England who since the over-rated success in the 1966 World Cup have stuck to the 4-4-2 or 4-3-3 system which brought apparent success then. People can carry on all they want about the alleged "missed chances", but luck like that suggested does not go on for lengthy periods.

You can be unlucky in one game but, by and large, everyone earns their luck. The plain fact is that in four World Cup games England scored only *three* goals.

Against Poland and Chorzow, England played a 4-4-2 formation but with an attacking stance. However commendable this might seem it is in reality quite foolish. If attack is considered important then 3-3-4 or 4-4-3 with the attacking seven all highly skilled, constructive players who can make and take chances.

Attacking

Why field two full-backs and then ask them to move up and attack as the England pair did in Chorzow? Surely it would have been better to ask natural attacking players to attack?

In fact, because the England backs pushed up so often, they succeeded in allowing Poland to mount many dangerout counter-attacks. None was more obvious than the blunder which led to Poland's second and probably decisive goal when Moore was caught as the last man, totally without support or cover.

At Wembley, England switched from 4-4-2 to an attacking 4-3-3 which was a distribution of forces more equitable to the task. However, they still attacked from the bay, and with good play the Poles engineered several clear-cut chances. Again the backs were encouraged to push forward.

Four-four-two is essentially a defensive formation, designed to soak up the opponents pressure without giving anything away still give yourself a chance of a win by mounting quick counter-attacks, following an enemy onslaught in strength. I am not advocating the way the Italians played at Wembley recently. It varied only slightly from England's 4-4-2, only in that instead of a sweeper playing in line to give a back four, the Italians have a *libero* who plays behind. Otherwise the objective is precisely the same.

Let me be clear. I hate the Italian system, and I only wish some practical way could be found to *force* everyone to play the old WM game. Regretfully, that cannot be done, but if England are going to play a counter-attacking 4-4-2 they could at least learn from the Italians and *do it properly*.

Miroslav Pavlovic of Red Star.

I am not suggesting that we must have wingers either. The days when the Finney-Matthews type could stay out of the game for long periods are over. What is essential today is that whether we play two up or three up, there must be *lateral movement* up front. That is to say, that the front players must make angled runs across the pitch and not as the England strikers do, concentrate in the centre.

When three strikers converge on the middle they inevitably bring their tight-marking shadows with them and beyond them there is a *libero*. You have to be a particularly gifted animal to pick your way through such a tight knit, closely packed defence. With lateral running in attack you spread the enemy defenders out, create space between them (that can be exploited by others); and above all you can create more favourable one against one situations because the enemy being more spread, they lack the close cover they can give each other when allowed to concentrate in the centre.

Description

We might as well have a go at the scribes I read describing Dynamo Tbilissi as the "best foreign side Spurs had met." This, of course, was before the second leg. Similarly, too many comedians over-praised Red Star when they eliminated Liverpool from the European Cup.

I saw Red Star last season when they produced some quite magnificent football. At that time they also included two of the world's best players in their positions, right back Krivokuca and left winger Dzajic. That night at White Hart Lane, the Yugoslavs really did show us how the game should be played . . . but they failed to score goals and lost.

At Liverpool they were without both those stars through injury and though they did stroke the ball around well, they were below par because of the absence of Dzajic, Krivokuca and several other first choices.

Of course, they played real football but they also produced two goals — the kind that go in only once or twice a season. But because they won at Anfield, "they" showed us how the game should be played. Face the fact. They showed us how last season but we were only willing to be impressed IF THEY WON.

'Gift' season tickets

by Colin McAlpin

DISTILLERY, the club fighting gallantly for survival since the loss of their ground because of the Northern Ireland civil unrest two years ago, recently came up with a unique method of attracting the fans back to their "home" games at Seaview (which they share with the Irish League champions Crusaders).

A meeting of the Distillery board decided to post between 250 and 300 "gift" season tickets to former members and shareholders in the hope that they would use them to watch the team, would like what they saw (or, at least, realise the club's efforts to stay alive) and would return regularly for more.

It's the first shot in Distillery's carefully planned comeback campaign. Secretary Billy Press explained that though their first priority lay in finding a permanent home for the club—and already the directors have several likely sites under consideration—they also realised the need of the players to have an adequate vocal support.

Harry Cavan of Northern Ireland . . . a FIFA Vice-President.

Favourites

In many ways Distillery's relationship with the fans—and, in spite of the team's lowly position in the Irish League table, there is a small, but fiercely loyal band of supporters always ready to cheer on the efforts of their favourites—hasn't been a good one in recent seasons.

The directors have been almost too busy trying to find a new ground and sort out the financial implications of having to leave Grosvenor Park to deal with the supporters. It was a fault they knew they had to rectify and the season ticket scheme goes a long way towards recognising the vital part the supporters can play if the club is to climb back to the forefront of the Northern Ireland game.

Explained Billy Press: "We realise that we need the supporters. We need them to encourage the players, to give the players the right incentive to pull away from the bottom reaches of the table.

"We decided to send out these tickets in the hope that old fans will re-establish their link with the club. We are not asking for money from them, though of course if anybody does want to help us in this way we'll be grateful. But, as I said, all we want initially is for the people to start watching us again. It's disheartening for the players, many of them young and highly promising, to turn out in a near-empty ground. It's amazing what a bit of support will do . . . we hope it works for us."

Situation

For manager Jimmy McAlinden, recently given a new two-year contract, the situation is difficult, to say the least. Yet he has worked wonders to attract to the club some of the most promising youngsters in the game . . . youngsters who, like Nottingham Forest's Martin O'Neill before them, will almost certainly feature in much-needed cash deals in the coming months.

Distillery know that they must vacate Seaview as soon as possible. They realise that by remaining at the ground of Crusaders they are upsetting any expansion plans the latter have.

Recently Crues boss Billy Johnston had to do a great deal of hard talking to keep many of his promising reserves from walking out. Crusaders Reserves must play "home" games at a ground almost 15 miles from Belfast to accommodate Distillery and these players felt there was little future at Crusaders under such circumstances. Billy, one of the top managers in the local game, talked the players out of their hinted transfer requests but wants his own club officials to sort out something.

"I realise how frustrating it is for the lads having to travel so far. They feel, as I do, that if they belong to the Crusaders club they should be playing at Seaview. Also, I want to start a third team yet I cannot do so while my second team is in danger of breaking up," said Johnston.

Either way, it becomes increasingly clear that Distillery are fighting a battle they must win.

IS BRAZILIAN TOO DEFENSIVE

BRAZIL

IS Brazilian soccer going defensive minded? It would appear so from the national championship currently in progress in which the 40 participating teams—including the cream of Brazilian soccer—are scoring an average of only 2.2 goals per game.

But this average is inflated by a few below strength teams among the 40 who are regularly being beaten by big scores. The rest of the games are a series of goal-less draws, 1-0 and 2-0 wins.

Last year's national champions, Palmeiras of Sao Paulo, look like retaining the title. After 22 games they lead by five points and are undefeated. They have scored 29 goals and their most frequent result is a 1-0 victory while their top scorer Leivinha has popped in eleven and is in joint second place in the scorers table with Tata (Portuguesa) —one behind Ramon of Santa Cruz, the championship's top scorer.

Palmeiras went through 10 games without a goal against until Rivelinho of Corinthians finally beat goalkeeper Leao, but by then Palmeiras were already 2-0 up against their Sao Paulo neighbours and maintained their lead.

Santos are the championship's leading scorers with 31 goals (Pele has netted 10)—and even that's less than one and a half per game but this championship defensive set-up is belied by Santos on tour.

Recently, at Santiago's National Stadium where the Chilean national team symbolically turned up for their scheduled World Cup qualifying game against the Soviet Union and kicked off at the scheduled time to score the "winning goal", Santos were at hand to play a friendly against Chile and spoilt their celebrating entry into the World Cup finals by thrashing them 5-0.

To prove this wasn't a fluke, Santos came to Buenos Aires a few days later to spoil another celebration—Huracan's inauguration of their new floodlights and winning of the First Division title. Santos walked over the Argentine First Division champions by 4-0. The match was billed as Pele's farewell appearance in Buenos Aires and he scored one of the goals.

So what will the Brazilian national team do in the World Cup this year? Team coach Zagalo, whose club, Flamengo, is down in the doldrums—in 34th place in the national championship —and not attacking or defending well at present, says it will depend on Brazil's rivals.

Morete (River Plate) takes a free kick against Estudiantes in their last National Championship game before the play-off series.

URUGUAY

Penarol has won the Uruguayan First Division championship to end Nacional's run of four titles in a row and the revelation of the season has been Penarol's 21-year-old centre-forward Fernando Morena (on loan from River Plate). He is already in the national team and finished as league top scorer with 22 goals.

As foreign clubs—particularly Brazil's Vasco da Gama—began to show interest, the Uruguayan FA quickly slapped a "no transfer" label on him until after the World Cup finals.

And as the season ends, Nacional, runners-up this time, threaten not to take part in next season's league championship because of the inclusion of Lorenzo Barreto in the list of league referees. Barreto had been banned from refereeing during the present season following the Nacional-Cerro match controlled by him and after which Nacional claimed his attitude was "aggressive" towards them.

URUGUAYAN First Division (Final standings): 1. Penarol 35 points; 2. Nacional 29; 3. Danubio 28; 4. Defensor 25; 5. Rentistas 24; 6. Cerro, Liverpool 23; 8. Wanderers, River Plate 21; 10. Huracan Buceo 16; 11. Central Espanol 14; 12. Bella Vista 5.

ARGENTINA

It was the closest finish ever in the Argentine National Championship. Before the last day's games no club was sure of a place in the top four title play-off. San Lorenzo, the champions, River Plate and Atlanta won their last games to qualify while a 0-0 draw was enough to give Rosario Central the remaining place.

Velez Sarsfield finished level on points with the two top teams in section A, but were kept out on goal difference (between goals scored and goals against)

SOCCER -MINDED

Pele dribbles through a bunch of Hurucan defenders in the friendly game in Buenos Aires in which his club beat the Argentinian champions 4-0.

PELE PLAYS

DURING his visit to Buenos Aires—where he played for Santos against Argentine First Division champions Huracan—Pele told World Soccer that he would definitely be retiring next November when his contract with Santos ends. He would then dedicate all his time to his family and numerous business interests.

Pele will be at the World Cup finals in Munich, but not as a player although he has been asked to play repeatedly. He has been offered a fat contract as a World Cup commentator.

The soccer king isn't interested in taking up coaching—except for boys. In fact he had just finished writing a book of soccer training tips for boys.

As reported earlier in WORLD SOCCER, Pele's entire salary from Santos is being paid to charities. Pele, a one club man, is 32 and made his debut in the Santos first team in 1958.

after a disappointing 0-0 draw with lowly FC Oeste.

First Division champions Huracan seemed out of it when 2-0 down at half-time against Independiente. Their hopes rose as they fought back to a 2-2 tie, but they couldn't get that third goal which would have put them into the play-offs on goal difference (one goal) instead of Rosario Central.

All the excitement made up for the poor football.

FINAL STANDINGS

SECTION A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
San Lorenzo	**15**	**8**	**6**	**1**	**31**	**16**	**22**
River Plate	15	10	2	3	29	17	22
Velez Sarsfield	15	8	6	1	24	13	22
Estud. de la Plata	15	7	3	5	27	15	17
Newell's Old Boys	15	7	3	5	28	23	17
San Lorenzo M. d P.	15	6	4	5	20	21	16
Chacarita Juniors	15	5	5	5	25	25	15
Instituto C.C.	15	6	2	7	23	20	14
San Martin Mendoza	15	5	3	7	19	28	13
Racing Club	15	5	3	7	27	30	13
Colon de Santa Fe	15	6	1	8	22	25	13
Cipolletti	15	3	5	7	22	29	11
San Martin Tucuman	15	4	2	9	19	29	10
Juventud Antoniana	15	2	3	10	13	35	7

Peruvian international Hugo Sotil.

SECTION B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Atlanta	**15**	**10**	**2**	**3**	**35**	**18**	**22**
Rosario Central	15	9	4	2	25	11	22
Huracan	15	8	5	2	29	15	21
Belgrano, Cordoba	15	8	4	3	25	18	20
Boca Juniors	15	9	0	6	30	19	18
Argentinos Juniors	15	8	2	5	28	19	18
Gim. y Esg. La Plata	15	7	2	6	32	27	16
Independiente	15	6	4	5	23	21	16
Atletico Tucuman	15	5	6	4	26	24	16
Indep'nte Rivadavia	15	5	3	7	20	27	13
Sp. Desamparados	15	3	6	6	19	22	12
Chaco For Ever	15	4	3	8	18	28	11
Gim. y Esgrima, Jujuy	15	3	3	9	18	37	9
Ferro Carril Oeste	15	3	3	9	10	24	9
Kimberley, M. del Plata	15	1	4	10	14	36	6

(top two in each section qualified for title play-off)

Top scorers: Voglino (Atlanta) 14, Morete (River Plate) 12.

BRAZILIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Palmeiras (S. Paulo)	**22**	**16**	**6**	**0**	**29**	**8**	**38**
Gremio (P. Alegre)	22	12	9	1	25	7	33
Cruzeiro (B. Horiz.)	22	11	8	3	25	13	30
Sao Paulo	22	9	11	2	27	14	29
Coritiba	22	11	5	6	28	16	27
Santos	22	10	7	5	31	18	27
Internacional (P.Al.)	22	10	6	6	21	15	26
Goias	22	9	8	5	24	13	25
Corinthians (S.P.)	22	9	8	5	22	16	26
Botafogo (Rio)	22	8	10	4	24	14	26
Fortaleza	22	9	9	4	22	16	27
America Mineiro	22	7	11	4	18	11	25
Guarani (S. Paulo)	22	7	11	4	26	20	25
Bahia	22	8	8	6	20	15	24
Vitoria	22	8	8	6	18	14	24
Fluminense	22	8	8	6	21	18	24
Tiradentes	22	8	8	6	16	13	24
Nacional	22	5	14	3	20	20	24
Atletico Mineiro	22	8	7	7	26	22	23
Rio Negro	22	7	8	7	18	15	22
Portuguesa (S. Paulo)	22	6	10	6	30	23	22
Vasco da Gama (Rio)	22	6	10	6	20	16	22
Santa Cruz	22	6	10	6	19	26	22
Ceará	22	5	12	5	14	17	22
Desp. Ferroviaria (SP)	22	7	7	8	15	14	21
Atletico Paranense	22	7	6	9	15	18	20
Comercial	22	7	6	9	20	28	20
America Rio Negro	22	6	8	8	26	29	20
Remo	22	7	3	12	12	26	17
Figueirense	22	5	9	8	12	17	19
Nautico	22	6	6	10	18	27	18
Olaria (Rio)	22	5	8	9	18	21	18
Sport Recife	22	6	5	11	19	30	17
Flamengo (Rio)	22	7	4	11	22	26	18
America (Rio)	22	4	8	10	15	24	16
CEUB	22	5	4	13	15	26	14
Moto Clube	22	1	10	11	9	32	12
CR Brasil	22	3	6	13	13	33	12
Sergipe	22	4	5	13	9	33	13
Paissandu	22	2	5	15	14	34	9

News from France

by ANDRE DUCLOS

Berdoll is the new hero of Angers

EVERYONE loves a goal scorer, and the new hero of the French Championship is the prolific young Marc Berdoll, of Angers. Thanks to him, the most dangerous forward they've had since the little Yugoslav international, Kovacevic, Angers are having their best season for years. With a somewhat better defence, they would be a fair bet for the most democratic championship France has seen for many a long season.

With Marseille falling apart after all those internal scandals, having in the meantime wrecked the domination and equilibrium of Saint Etienne by stealing Carnus and Bosquier, it is one great glorious free for all. Nice set a hot pace at the beginning but just cannot play away—it eventually cost them their qualification in the EUFA Cup, when Cologne wiped out their defeat on the Côte d'Azur, while Nantes, the reigning champions, got away to a poor start, badly missing the Argentinians Bargas, in defence, and Marcos, up front. The return of the excellent, splendidly commanding, efficient Bargas has given the team new equilibrium, and at the time of writing it is not impossible that Nantes, as you say, will come with a late run.

Exciting player

As for Berdoll, he is an exciting young player, still only 20 years old, and manifestly full of goals. Born at Trelazé, an Angers player since boyhood, married, but so far without children, he is a gifted goal scorer indeed. He jumps superbly, believes that his chief asset is his speed over the first ten yards, and has extremely flexible ankles, which allow him to feint over the ball, controlling it with the inside or the outside of the boot. He is also two-footed.

His greatest fault, he confesses, is lack of foresight, or of what we here call clairvoyance. Some critics would say that his main fault is, rather, inconsistency. He puts away goals which few other players would think of scoring, but misses others which any decent forward should get. At the moment the amiable, ebullient Berdoll seems a little astonished by his own success. He is a keen fisherman, smokes menthol cigarettes, and says he doesn't know whether his position this season among the top scorers is thanks to his own improvement—he scored a mere seven last year—or to the falling away of the others.

Quite formidable

After his two goals had won a recent game against Metz—who came blazingly to life the following week with a 5-1 win against Saint Etienne—Berdoll was congratulated by Nico Braun, the Metz centre-forward, a stockily built Luxemburg international who himself has been well among the goals this season. It is no surprise to learn that Braun, who resembles them in build, idolises Uwe Seeler and Gerd Muller.

Married, without children, like Berdoll, only 23 years old, he had a couple of years in the *Bundesliga*. Asked what he considers his chief assets, he says that he never gives up, is good in the air and has a strong left foot. "Without boasting, I think I have everything a centre-forward should have." Including, apparently, confidence. . . . He is certainly one of the best headers of a football in a French League not over endowed in that skill; one more sign that he has taken Uwe Seeler as a model. His left-footed shooting, too, is quite formidable.

Yvan Curkovic, the Yugoslav international who keeps goal for Saint Etienne so competently, has been asked by the French national team manager, Stefan Kovacs, to train his goalkeepers at the next training session of the national team. Curkovic has agreed. He admires a number of French goalkeepers, including the present incumbent, Baratelli of Nice, and such up and coming young stars as Chauveau of Lyon and Bernard of Rennes, but he believes that our goalkeepers have one major fault; they will not come off their line.

He recalls that when he was playing for Partizan, the old Yugoslav international inside-forward, Stefan Bobek, manager by then, told him that he must command the 18-yard box, and, that if ever he were lobbed, he, Bobek, would take the responsibility. This, says Curkovic, had a great impact on his style and career.

Baratelli, meanwhile, is having an excellent season. He says that he began it with greater confidence in himself than he has ever had before. He thinks he has reached a level of consistency essential to a goalkeeper. He thinks he was very lucky to break into First Division football, against the Corsican club, Ajaccio, at the relatively early age of 19. "One generally says, and with justice, that a goalkeeper's best age is about 28." In fact he was primarily a skier till he was 15 years old, and was persuaded to turn to football. He pays tribute to his first coach, M. Vadel, himself once a goalkeeper, with Monaco, in Division Two. Vadel, he says, put him on the right road.

Highly promising

Other goalkeepers admire him. Bartrand-Demanes, of Nantes, thinks Baratelli is "the most complete" of French keepers, while the highly promising young Strasburg goalie, Dropsy, calls him "the number one; he has gained in assurance and confidence".

Paris F.C. continue their curious, up and down, progression. They went down 4-0 at Metz, where Braun stuck three goals past their keeper, Gallina, the third from the penalty spot, exactly one minute after his second. But then they bounced back with home wins of convincing proportions, 4-0 and 3-0, over Monaco and Reims. Another home team, it seems; like Nice. Such internationals as Djorkaeff, the "Cossack", Floch and Spiegler seem always capable of turning something on before a Parisian public which is as fickle in its numbers as, ever. Oh for a little consistency; what prizes are there to be gained were it only to be found!

Talking of Yugoslavs, the 28-year-old winger Ilja Petkovic is having such a fine, effective season with newly promoted Troyes that he was picked by his country for the vital World Cup match in Greece; thus reversing the draconian unwritten law whereby any Yugoslav player who leaves the country is automatically written off as an international. Small, lively, penetrating, this is a capture indeed by Troyes.

SWISS ARE USED TO SHUT-DOWN

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

SWITZERLAND'S soccer season has closed down for its usual winter pause in mid-December, and will resume its activities on March 3. While English legislators rejected appeals for a shut-down in this country, on account of the energy crisis, because they fear a further loss of interest by fans who would "lose the habit" of going to matches, no such problems exist in Switzerland, nor indeed in any Central or Eastern European country.

Sub zero temperatures and several feet of snow throughout the winter make football totally impossible in those lands during parts of December, in January and February. But the supporters always return there in the spring, often even in larger numbers, simply because they are starved of soccer and look forward to the games again.

There is in fact no evidence whatever to suggest, that those who are interested in football could lose the urge to go and watch their favourite teams, just because there hasn't been any football during a 2-3 months period.

Newcomers

At the half way stage of the championship, FC Zürich have established a four-point lead over the surprisingly durable newcomers Xamax Neuchatel. For those readers who may be curious as to why this club is thus called, the explanation is that they were "christened" after one of the greatest forwards this country has produced and holder of 68 caps, Max ("Xam") Abegglen. His nick-name and first name produced Xamax!

This club owes a lot to Gilbert Facchinetti 37, whose initiative and financial aid have transformed Xamax from a modest outfit lingering in the 1. Amateur League, to one of the top teams in the First Division. Perhaps no other Swiss club have managed to strengthen their squad with well known players quite so consistently and although the acquisitions were not always suitable, now Xamax appear to have at last found the right blend to reach for the highest honours.

The club exists in its present form only since 1970, following its amalgamation with Cantonal. In 1966 they gained promotion into the Second Division, when Facchinetti was still playing on the left wing. And as Xamax achieved six years later the coveted entry into the upper sphere, Facchinetti, then already a technical director, permitted himself the luxury of turning out in the last Second Division game and prepared even the winning goal!

But the credit for the current run of success must also be given to the coach Law Mantula, a 45-year-old Yugoslav who has led the team to promotion last season. During the past six years a number of former internationals, foreign mercenaries, as well as a few "discards", have passed through the club, and disappeared again. Currently, only the Italian-born Mantoan, a defender, can be described as a real Xamax boy.

Retained

Goalkeeper Biaggi has served Le Locle, Sion, St. Gallen and Biel. Claude came in 1970, the international Citherlet arrived after a 10-year spell with Grasshoppers, and so did Siegenthaler from Basel. Blusch played until 1971 for Kaiserslautern, in Germany, the Frenchman Richard until 1972 for Chaux-de-Fonds, whilst Steiger on loan from Zürich has now been retained.

Mathez joined in 1972 after serving Moutier and Sion, Rub signed from neighbouring Audax; Traber came from Adliswil and Elsig from Sion. And finally Bonny, who left Lausanne for Xamax in 1967 and can justly be rated an "'old hand" here! A truly remarkable assembly which has surprised the experts, fired the imagination of the fans and which threatens to shake the established giants.

Brilliant

But the outstanding team of the present campaign is that of the leader FC Zürich. Only last season this outfit repeatedly threw their followers into depth of despair, with their unpredictable displays ranging from brilliant to quite hopeless.

In the League the FCZ team finished in a modest seventh place — their worst ranking since 1965. But this same eleven won nevertheless the Cup, by beating the champion FC Basel! But this term there is a new wind blowing right through the club. The team is playing with renewed confidence, it reached the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners Cup by defeating Anderlecht and Malmoe and is now hailed as the future champions.

The chief credit for the modern style adopted by FCZ must go to their coach, the former German star "Timo" Konietzka. He had problems upon his appointment in 1971 as player-manager. But now that he can devote himself entirely to training and preparations of his charges, Konietzka is beginning to put his own ideas into operation. In this he enjoys the support of the club's president Edi Naegeli, who in his additional function of technical director is responsible for the buying and selling of personnel.

Naegeli did not hesitate to dispose even of his top scorer Fritz Künzli, who went to Winterthur for £20,000. And the German old-timer Rudi Brunnenmeier, who got into trouble with the law here, was allowed to leave the club and country.

In their places the club engaged a young rising starlet René Botteron and the talented Yugoslav Ilija Katic, from Partizan Belgrade. These two managed to enliven the whole team. FC Zürich may not be as strong as when they reached the semi-finals of the European Cup in 1964, but Herr Naegeli insists: "This is the best squad we have ever had."

STARTING NEXT MONTH

READERS' FORUM

Send your letter, as concise as possible, to:

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YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD!

Szucs leaves Ujpest Dozsa

COACH Gyula Szucs, and Ujpest Dozsa, half-time table-toppers and five times champions, have parted by mutual agreement. In Hungary, official announcements such as this usually mean that, let us say, the centre-back and the midfield trio have mutually agreed that they wish to get rid of the coach, and then proceed to make his position untenable.

But in this case results, or rather the manner of achieving them, have also played a major part. Szucs, nearing retirement, is an easy-going character, and more or less lets players train according to their mood.

This lessening of discipline has harmed the squad's stamina and in consequence Dozsa couldn't cope with the demands of both domestic and international football. They did finish on top, but their points total (20 in 15 matches) is not satisfactory, and they have conceded too many goals for comfort.

Programme

Now reserve team coach Pal Varhidi has taken over the job—the fourth manager in as many years at the helm (Baroti, Kovacs, Szucs). He is an ex-international who, around the end of his career, was in the same side as Szeutmihalyi, Bene and a couple of others still active. He'll put a touch of steel into the training programme, and one can only hope that the players will respond to him in a positive way.

There is also a change of personnel at the very top of the Hungarian football hierarchy. F.A. President Andras Terpitko has left, and the editor of a sports weekly, Istvan Kutas, has been appointed. Kutas will do the job in an honorary capacity, and it is expected that he will co-opt other journalists and radio commentators of repute into the F.A. committees.

Gold medal

In his paper, the *Kepes Sport*, Kutas recently wrote: "It is not true that the bonus payment for the Wembley victory (6-3 in 1953) was only 3,000 forints. We contemporaries remember that it was 12,400 forints per player. In fact, more than was given to gold medal winners in the '52 Helsinki Olympics."

So much for amateurism! But, at least, Kutas is a realist and might help to put football on the right tracks. In a similar context, I was interested to read the manuscript of a phone-in which took place between the readers of "Nepsport" and the international defender of Honved, Lajos Szucs.

Poor results

Q.: "Why were you left out of the national eleven?"

Szucs: "I haven't the slightest idea. I heard the news from friends, no one bothered to tell me officially. I feel that I have always done my best for the national team."

Q.: "Besides the poor results, what are the reasons for the moral decline in Hungarian football?"

News from Hungary by LESLIE VERNON

Szucs: "There is a connection between the two. But if you mean why do we have so much trouble with the younger players, I must say that this isn't their fault entirely. They are given too much too soon. After a couple of good games, they are written-up as stars. No wonder that they lose their sense of proportion and become big-headed."

Q.: Do you go to your place of employment during the close season, or at any other time?"

Szucs: "No!"

So much for part-time workers! The present system and regulations have been described in detail by Laszlo Moriez, the Vice-President of the provincial club Raba Eto: "There is a regulation in force, issued by the Ministry of Sport (2027/1968) which compels First Division footballers to work at their places of employment for 23 hours per week.

They have been issued with cards which must be stamped, otherwise they cannot be paid. But we have decided to keep their cards here, and stamp them in their absence. The management of the factories have realised that from the point of view of production and discipline, it is better that the footballers stay outside the factory gates.

In this way we pay only 20 people who haven't done any work at all, but if they were to come in, they would stop 200 workers from going about their business as usual!'

Significant words, and the situation must be similar at other clubs. I have no wish to pillory Hungarian football. On the contrary, I would love to see them do well and regain their old prominence, but it is clear that radical changes are badly needed.

Factories

When the President of the F.A. openly writes about the size of the bonus payments given to so-called amateurs, when international players openly state that they have never done a day's work, when club officials openly admit that factories and offices are better off without the actual physical presence of footballers, and that their pay packets are weekly gift parcels—there must be a high level reappraisal of the situation.

It is not only immoral to receive wages without work, but it is also destructive in character-building, especially for youngsters just coming into the game. Footballers who can earn money outside the game without lifting a finger, subconsciously adopt the same attitudes inside it. They refuse to work hard in training, and with too much free time on their hands—often in a town where they don't have family roots—they cannot resist the temptations of an easy life.

Population

It is not surprising that the working population resent these pampered young men, who cannot even give a wholehearted performance for 90 minutes per week. It is clear to me that open, full-time professionalism must be introduced, with bonuses paid for results only. A fair day's pay for a fair day's work!

Finally, a typical example of the Budapest gallows humour: "What is the national team manager Illovszky's motto?" "The important thing is not to win, but to be taken apart!"

Berti Vogts with West German team manager Helmet Schoen

Berti Vogts talks to Gregory Tesser

ALL-ROUND FOOTBALLERS THESE DAYS

QUESTION: Although a key man for your club, your name seldom hits the headlines. Do you feel defenders should receive more publicity?

ANSWER: Yes, I suppose I do. Let's face it, the role of a present-day defender has become just as important as that of a forward. A few years ago, defenders had a much easier job to do—they were there simply to thwart the opposition's forwards. However, nowadays so-called back-four men must also be able to play skilful soccer. In fact in the modern game there are no such things as pure defenders. Nowadays we are all all-round footballers.

During the 1970 World Cup, and particularly after West Germany's defeat at the hands of the Italians, Mr. Shoen was widely criticised for his tactics and substitutions. Do you think these criticisms were justified?

Criticism is a very easy and dangerous weapon to use, and in the case of Mr. Schoen I think it was totally uncalled-for. It should be remembered that our semi-final against Italy was our first match at the Aztec Stadium, and we were all extremely weary after our quarter-final with England. Really, our only mistake during the game was to let Italy score first, something which can hardly be blamed on Mr. Schoen! Frankly, I think his use of our substitutes was extremely shrewd. When Siggy Held replaced Patzke, he produced all the running and finishing on the left that Germany needed. And it was due to this move that we eventually equalised.

An Italian journalist at the time described the frenetic goal-filled period of extra-time as "basketball"....

Other journalists described the tie as a masterpiece of attacking football. As far as I was concerned, I was a bit disgusted by the whole thing. The turning-point was unquestionably when Franz Beckenbauer was viciously fouled. Technically it wasn't a penalty, as it occurred a few yards outside the box. But morally it was a hundred times a penalty, and in my view the game was won and lost at that moment.

Italy have recently beaten Brazil. Do you see this as an omen for the World Cup Finals?

I think that they have a great chance of reaching the Final again. Unlike the Brazilians Italy will have thousands of supporters in Germany. And this will undoubtedly be a tremendous inspiration to the Italian side. Whether they can beat Brazil remains to be seen. I think that since Pele's retirement people have tended to dismiss the Brazilians.

It has been said that it is not really Sir Alf Ramsey who must take the blame for England's failure to qualify for the World Cup Finals, but the English clubs who did not give him enough time with the players. Do you agree with this?

I think the problems all Western European countries have over the club v. country situation is the price we have to pay for democracy. One shouldn't blame the clubs too much, after all they pay the players' wages. Sir Alf Ramsey fielded his strongest side. Of course, he could have been helped in his task had the English Football League postponed all First Division matches for the previous Saturday, but as I've already said this is the price we Western Europeans have to pay!

You've had a very successful career both at club and international level. Have you any wishes left that are still unfulfilled?

When I joined Borussia from VFR Buttgen, I had only one aim in life, namely to assert myself in the side. This I think I have done a thousand times over. With Borussia I have won every domestic honour, but I have never been on the winning side in a major European Final. This I hope to achieve this season in the European Cup Winners' Cup. And if we don't achieve this, of course, there is still the World Cup!

Eric Thornton spotlights a club struggling in the backwaters

Hartlepools and bid for survival

ONCE more they are fighting for survival. And once more the odds seem to be mounting against them as many of their rivals are now beginning to prepare for the final straight and the life-or-death struggles of the closing weeks.

Yet there are no signs of panic, only silent prayers going up for the best of luck, because Hartlepools United have almost always known it tough, and only rarely gained a spot in the limelight.

Kingsley wrote about the "Brave North-Easter", and I sometimes wonder whether he'd heard about the fighting spirit of these folk who miraculously keep League soccer alive in the old harbour town north of the Tees.

Success

It is nearly a miracle that the professional game is still played there, because support has been paper thin for years, with officials thinking somebody's having a party whenever the crowd touches 3,000.

Some say they are lucky to reach four figures with such lack of success, but the faithful few stay that way come rain, gales, snow, or anything else. Always turning up religiously, and not moaning too much when so often another defeat ends temporary hopes.

The signs are that some clubs may be folding seen in these days of rising costs, but it would not surprise me if this brave, little outfit managed to weather the storm, as it has done for over 60 years.

Yes, sir. It's a club with a long history. Founded as far back as 1908, it was also one of the original members of the Northern Section of the Third Division in 1921.

Terraces

They have never played in the top circles, however, and, apart from one solitary winter, have been down among the "dead" men in the Fourth Division continuously since 1958—a stretch of time to test the friendship even of Gabriel!

Maybe the fairly close proximity of better stuff up the coast at Middlesbrough and Sunderland hits them hard, but I reckon that even a successful team would still play to empty spaces on the terraces.

So every new season provides a continuing struggle. Challenge if that's how you prefer it to be styled, though most regard it as an annual battle for survival.

The first priority for the remaining months of this campaign, as it has been in most others, is to steer clear of the bottom four spots, and thus avoid having to canvass support for their re-election.

There would be very real danger to their future if it became necessary once again for a cap-in-hand approach to the men with the voting power of life or death.

For I'm afraid Hartlepools have become known for their pleadings. They are the game's re-election record-holders, those lacking sympathy accuse them of keeping out more progressive clubs.

It's difficult to dodge that point when it's pointed out that they have already been voted back on no fewer than *SEVEN* occasions, while Barrow were given only six chances before being tossed out of the League, and Bradford had only three.

Managership

Looking back at the club which gave him his first chance of managership, Brian Clough grimly says he "wouldn't want to go through that again". I don't doubt him for a moment.

Lion-hearted Len Ashurst, who knew the glories of Sunderland for so many years, took on the task of shaping a team with a new future and experienced frustration with signing bids.

Some of the players he wanted were agreeable to moves until they learned that the inquiring club was Hartlepools. Then they shied off, because, as one told me: "I don't fancy going to the North-East".

Problems are being met at every corner in this fight for soccer life....

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FIFA TO LIFT BAN

SOUTH AFRICA, who were outlawed as a FIFA footballing country in 1964 because of their apartheid approach are trying to get the ban on short-term contracted British players rescinded.

South African F.A. President Dave Marais and General Manager Viv Granger have talked to Sir Stanley Rous, the FIFA President in an effort to sort things out to their satisfaction.

It would be a blow to the game in South Africa if they could not use the British stars as they have done in the past few years.

Zoff acclaimed

by PHILIP EVANS

WITH only one game to go before we reach midway point in this year's Italian championship, thank heaven for the opportunity to write about something and someone whose performances over a period of time transcend the banality of most Italian gossip.

It was good that Zoff was so well acclaimed in the *France Football* poll at the end of the year. It is not so much that goalkeepers are crazy as that goalkeepers are crazily ignored. For the obvious physiological reason—that their's is a game of legerdemain in a sport of legerdepoid (if there isn't such a word in common usage, there should be). And for the less obvious reason that goalkeeping is about style rather than muscle, reflex rather than stolidity. Which has nothing to do with defence, of course, and is thus too often flown over.

Nothing illustrated so well the illusarity of some British football journalists as the comments that were guritated forth on the retirement of Gordon Banks. Banks was the best goalkeeper in the world, the argument ran, so—*ipso facto*—his successor in the English team had to be the best goalkeeper in the world. For my money Shilton is not even the best English goalkeeper in English football (for Parkes has more inherent talent), let alone the best British goalkeeper in English football (viva Harvey and viva Jennings), let most of all the best European goalkeeper in Europe—which is how we come to Zoff.

Cool

Both as player and as personality Zoff is cool, intelligent and articulate. And for some seasons now he has been a player worth watching; even in those games when he has made a queue outside a Social Security office seem like Trafalgar Square on New Year's Eve.

It is no coincidence at all that Juventus have had a goodish season and are up there at the top of the table just below Lazio. For as I implied last month, Juventus may be the team to beat this season. When Anastasi sits on the reserve bench of a club side, then that club side must have a good pool of players. As I write Juve have just been beaten by Fiorentina at Florence; with goals against from Merlo and Caso, and with Salvadore sent off for being "too professional".

But in the past few weeks they have gathered a fair share of points, with wins over Inter, Sampdoria and Roma; and an unlucky loss to Cagliari. Zoff was then fooled by a Riva special. But he was not the first to suffer the fate and will not be the last; and Juventus are still there.

Lazio, it is, who head the table with twenty-one points from fourteen games. Not too long ago they lost, perversely, to Torino at home—Torino, who have been having a thoroughly muddled and unhappy season. But that apart the Roman club won the important home game to A.C. Milan, thanks to a goal from Re Cecconi, who has been having a real curate's egg of a season. Quick-thinking and fast-moving, he is a midfield player of the highest potential, one that Torino should never have ceded; and my hope is that he will recover complete form before next summer's German frolics. For there he could be one of the stars on view.

In addition Lazio have beaten Genoa, Verona, Napoli and Foggia; with Garlaschelli taking over the goal-scoring role from Chinaglia and the team as a whole entrenchedly mean in terms of defence.

Napoli are joint third with Fiorentina, but they suffered a bad patch over the Christmas period and are beginning to look what they are—a good, rather than a leading, team. They lost consecutively to Lazio, Milan and Foggia; won the games against Verona and Bologna; drew that against Torino. Clerici continues to score goals, even if his post-scoring gestures appear to have been misunderstood.

In the game against Bologna he tucked away a neat penalty; made a gesture that to him symbolised cleverness at having fooled Buso, the young Bolognese goalkeeper; and was given marching orders by the referee for having suggested to Buso, the referee or the crowd *en masse* that he, it or they had grown horns. A new variation on the old theme of the *cinq a sept*; but for the fact that Clerici is a gentleman and not prone to gutter gestures.

Fiorentina have been having trouble with De Sisti who was injured, stopped being injured, wasn't given a place *in* the team and felt aggrieved. When he was finally accommodated it was at the expense of Antognoni; which makes perfect sense in technical terms, less perfect sense in emotive ones. The fact remains that either Antognoni—despite his lack of experience—is given the chance to instigate the team's attacking ploys, or he is not; for he will never be just another midfield player.

Assured

His footballing brain is too astute, his technical prowess too assured, his attitude too imperial for him to be merely a lieutenant. And that problem will remain until De Sisti is transfered or converted to a deeper-lying role in the team. And, for that, I doubt his defensive ability.

The Tuscan team lost to Fiorentina reserves, masquerading as Lanerossi Vicenza, and as a result of philanthropy induced by familiarity. But that apart there have been wins over Inter and Cagliari (comprehensively by four goals to one) as well as that over Juventus; and draws away from home to Cesena and Roma. There is class and style there at the Stadio Communale; there is an energetic, imaginative manager prepared to talk attack; there might also be a lack of cynicism and a dearth of battle-scars. We shall see whether that will prove ultimately more important.

Milan felt revived by beating Genoa on the day that saw Lazio lose to Torino; but at the last came a loss to Bologna and the gap between them and the leaders remains five points. Two-one up at half time against Bologna, they eventually lost by the odd goal in five; there was that Re Cecconi goal in Rome; and there have been wins over Torino, Verona and Napoli. But Rivera is having one of his opaque and disinterested patches; and the drubbing Milan suffered at the hands of Ajax in the second leg of the Super Cup (they're all Supersomething these days) must have left its Supercicutrice.

Inter are one point behind their neighbours, but still awfully dependant upon Boninsegna. He remains at the head of the goalscoring list with eleven goals in fourteen games. But Inter lost most recently at home to Cagliari by the one goal, lost the crucial away game to Juventus, only managed a draw with lowly Sampdoria; and remain, as ever, top-heavy in strategists and bottom-weight in application. No tears, please.

Foggia and Bologna tally with them, both capable of winning well and losing dreadfully. In the case of the former that took the form of a drubbing at the hands of Verona; and Verona are no one's idea of a Wunderteam.

On fourteen points are Torino and Cagliari, the former plagued by internecine warfare, with fans laying siege to the reputation of Giagnoni and Giagnoni replying energetically. Poor man. Sala remains injured, Bai too prone to breakdown, Pulici far from last season's galvanic form, Juventus too successful along the corridor.

Cagliari were delighted by their away win over Inter, but their record gives away a whole picture. Ten of their twelve goals have been scored by Riva, the other two have been own-goals instigated by his play. In one corner of the footballing world, it seems, individuality still plays its part.

Cesena on thirteen, Roma on eleven—after the latter had beaten the former in a crucial game. Then to the dregs: Genoa on nine, Verona and Vicenza on eight, Sampdoria on seven. And so to the next page in this era of paper shortage.

LODZ LOSE TOP STAR

POLAND

LKS Lodz goalkeeper Jan Tomeszewski, whose acrobatics on and around his goal-line at Wembley did much to put Poland through to the World Cup final stages, has sustained a serious injury. He did it in the match LKS lost 7-0 to the reigning champions Stal Mielec in which he was said to have had a stinker.

In fact, he courageously though foolishly said nothing about his injury. Apparently it is not a simple fracture and the complications make it doubtful if he will be fit enough by June.

The Lodz manager, Kazimierz Gorski, presumably under pressure from the FA, has resigned in order to concentrate on his job of preparing Poland for the World Cup.

The national squad will get together for three weeks special training in February and March during which time it is hoped to play against the losers in the Spain-Yugoslav play-off.

If they are to maintain their progress and do well in Germany they must achieve what they have never done before.

Rivals

In seven previous meetings with their preliminary rivals, Italy and Argentina, Poland have never won a game and scored only two goals against 14. Training matches definitely arranged are against Czechoslovakia (in March) and Belgium in May, and Gorski's new assistant is Andrej Strelau.

Since May, 1971, when Gorski took over the national squad he has capped no less than 57 different players. Though there is no obvious replacement for Tomaszewski, should he not recover in time, his policy has paid off. Jan Domarski, who stood in for Lubanski at Wembley, has 10 caps but has scored only one international goal — the vital one at Wembley!

In the last round of league matches before the break, Gornik beat Gwaria 3-1 while Wisla won 2-0 at Opole. They gained a point over the pacemakers Ruch Chorzow, who were held to 0-0 by Legia in Warsaw and champions Stal Mielec, who were held to 1-1 by bottom-of-the-table Zaglebie at Sosnowiec.

Surfeit of home wins

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

IN the first half of the current league campaign in Czechoslovakia 70 per cent of all games ended as home wins, and overall only matches in Division I were won away from home. One good sign, however, was the relative disappearance of the 0-0 draw which cropped up only six times in the top class.

Goals were still scarce, however, and Sparta Prague (much improved), champions Spartak Trnava and Zilina all managed to score only three goals each from all their away games. Even worse was the away showing of Presov who recorded only one goal away from home.

Sparta's improvement was reflected at the turnstiles everywhere. At home they averaged almost 14,000 and were crowd pullers away, too, with an average of more than 13,000.

Sparta's Prague derby with Slavia pulled in the biggest crowd of the autumn campaign (25,802) while on the same day the only other attendance of more than 25,000 was seen in Brno where Spartak Trnava attracted 25,547.

Most attendances varied between 5,000 and 10,000, but Sparta Prague were involved in four out of the five games that attracted more than 20,000. The lowest gate was the 747 who saw newly promoted Internacional (Bratislava) against fellow strugglers against the drop, Plzen, which by coincidence produced Inter's biggest win of the season by 6-1.

However, Inter's 1970 World Cup star Ladislav Petras had a poor time, scoring only twice in the 15 games.

Slavia Prague are, for once, apparently out of the relegation struggle though winning their home games by low scores. Yet, as with Sparta, there remains a great deal of goodwill for them and their improved league position was reflected at the turnstiles.

They had the second highest home average at 11,000.

Dukla, second in the table, are still lacking support. Most of their fans are young, impressed by their achievements in the '60s and weaned away from families traditionally split between Sparta and Slavia.

They did better away with a home average of 6,500 against almost 10,000 away.

Marian Ostafinski of Poland.

CARL ZEISS JENA LEAD

THE herbst-meister in East Germany —winter champions—are FC Carl Zeiss Jena who played at their peak on the last day of the autumn season. Away to champions Dynamo Dresden, they won 3-1 before a crowd of 33,000.

Zeiss' centre-forward, international Peter Ducke, scored twice in this game to bring his overall First Division total to 142 goals, which is a new record.

Christo Bonev, voted Bulgaria's Footballer of the Year, shows that he has good taste by reading WORLD SOCCER.

On the same day the two newly promoted clubs clashed, and Energie Cottbus gained their first win of the championship 2-1 away to Stahl Riesa. However these two teams occupy the last places in the table and look odds-on bets for relegation.

Attendances are up overall on last season, though they fell away in December due to freezing temperatures, snow and ice, to an average of 6,000 a game. Earlier in the season while the weather was good the average for Division I matches was as high as 18,000.

Leading scorer in the championship is 1st FC Lokomotive Leipzig's big centre-forward Hans-Bert Matoul with 13 goals followed by Ducke on nine and and another World Cup star Jurgen Sparwasser of 1st FC Magdeburg who has seven to his credit.

Surprise

In the FA Cup quarter-finals, Dynamo Berlin provided a big surprise by winning their first (away) leg 2-0 at Magdeburg and won overall by 4-0.

Dynamo Dresden got through against FC Karl Marx Stadt (4-1 and 0-0) while their reserves failed to overcome Energie Cottbus and went out 2-4 on aggregate.

Carl Zeiss made no mistakes against Stahl Riesa, winning 8-2 on aggregate.

The draw for the semi-finals opens up the possibility of a classic final between 1973 champions Dynamo Dresden and prospective champions in the current campaign FC Carl Zeiss. The draw is Dynamo Berlin v. Dynamo Dresden and Energie Cottbus v. FC Carl Zeiss.

Bonev wins top award

BULGARIA

CHRISTO BONEV, inside-right of Lokomotive Plovdiv and star of the Bulgarian national team, qualified for the World Cup, has once more been elected "Footballer of the Year".

Scorer of seven vital World Cup goals, he was the hero of the two games with Portgual which clinched qualification, getting three goals in the two games, 2-1 at home and 2-2 away. This is the third time Bonev has received the award (a record) having earned it in 1969 and 1972.

Having dropped their first point of the campaign to bottom-of-the-table Spartak Pleven, Levski storm on towards a title that must be theirs.

In a local derby against Lokomotive Sofia a penalty goal by Vojin Voynov gave them a 1-0 win and that was followed by another win by the minimum against Cernomore.

This time the scorer was Georgi Tzvetkov. The one thing Levski lack is a regular scorer, a real bomber. They paid dearly for the absence of such a player away to Trakia in Plovdiv where defensive errors enabled the home side to score three times and Levski's unbeaten record went at the 17th hurdle 3-2.

At the halfway mark Levski led by a clear eight points, but fortunately their major rivals, CSKA Sofia, having beaten Ajax in the European Cup, never managed a really sustained challenge.

Away from home they dropped precious points, drawing 1-1 at Pernik, thanks to an own goal, and drawing 3-3 at Stara Zagora against Beroe the weekend that Levski's unbeaten run was ended.

The top scorers at the break are Petki Petkov (Beroe) with 18; Dimitr Tzekov the big find of Etur (Tirnovo) on 14 and Stefan Bogomilov from Cernomore 11.

At the bottom end of the table things are sorting themselves out. Newly promoted Blagoevgrad pulled clear of the danger zone after beating Gabrovo 3-1 while in the Varna derby Bogomilov scored twice for Cernomore against GSK Spartak without reply.

YUGOSLAVIA

Hero Karasi in trouble

SCORER of the last-second goal against Greece which earned Yugoslavia a World Cup play-off with Spain, Red Star's 23-year-old inside-right Stanislav Karasi has fallen foul of the law.

In court, after being involved in an accident while driving in Belgrade, he was sentenced to two months gaol. Karasi has appealed and is on bail, but unfortunately a man died in the accident and this is regarded seriously in Yugoslavia.

Velibor Vasovic, the former Ajax star, has definitely quit his job as manager of Partizan after a 1-0 defeat in the local derby v. OFK. This appeared to solve nothing for Partizan, who picked up only two points from draws in the next four games.

Watched

At home on the last day before the break at the half-way mark, Partizan were watched by only 2,000, but picked up two valuable points to lift themselves above the prime relegation candidates, beating Celik 2-0.

Though still without their international inside-left, Franjo Vladic, Velez Mostar jumped up from 15th to 5th place with a run of success inspired by the return to fitness and form of centre-forward Dusan Bajevic. He tops the scorers list at the break with 11 goals, followed by Radovic (Borac Banja Luka) and Sujica of Vardar Skoplje who have ten each.

Red Star have slipped since manager Miljan Miljanic walked out on them, allegedly unable to impose his ideas on some of the players. They were beaten by Hajduk Split in the Cup Final by 1-1 and 2-1. Their last game away to newly promoted Proleter was lost 3-2 with stopped Dojcinovski being sent off.

Facing a World Cup final eliminator against Spain in February, almost a month before the league resumes, special arrangements have been made. Four teams have recalled their players, and they have been reinforced by members of the national squad from other clubs.

At the end of January, Hajduk, Red Star, Partizan and Dynamo Zagreb will play in a tournament at Split. Included will be two centre-forwards on special leave from the Army — Musemic (Hajduk) and Santrac (OFK), one of whom will replace the suspended Bajevic, whose aggressive heading and goal instinct will be missed.

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eintracht F'furt	**19**	**10**	**6**	**3**	**37**	**28**	**26**
Bayern Munich	19	10	5	4	55	39	25
Borussia M'bach	19	10	4	5	49	36	24
Fortuna Dus'dorf	19	9	5	5	36	30	23
VfB Stuttgart	19	9	4	6	43	31	22
Hertha Berlin	19	7	8	4	33	29	22
Kaiserslautern	19	8	5	6	45	40	21
1FC Cologne	19	7	6	6	32	32	20
Kickers Off'bach	19	7	5	7	35	35	19
Rot-Weiss Essen	19	6	6	7	34	39	18
Hamburg SV	19	7	3	9	30	31	17
Wuppertal	19	6	5	8	28	31	17
Werder Bremen	19	5	7	7	26	31	17
Schalke 04	19	6	4	9	39	46	16
VfL Bochum	19	5	6	8	25	33	16
Hannover	19	4	5	10	31	39	13
MSV Duisburg	19	4	5	10	23	34	13
Fortuna Cologne	19	3	7	9	27	44	13

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds United	**25**	**17**	**8**	**0**	**45**	**14**	**42**
Liverpool	25	14	6	5	33	21	34
Burnley	24	11	8	5	32	27	30
Derby County	25	10	8	7	31	24	28
Queen's Park R	25	9	10	6	38	32	28
Ipswich Town	24	11	6	7	38	34	28
Leicester City	25	9	9	7	31	27	27
Everton	25	10	7	8	27	25	27
Newcastle Utd.	24	11	4	9	32	26	26
Southampton	25	8	9	8	32	35	25
Arsenal	26	9	7	10	29	32	25
Coventry	26	9	7	10	29	32	25
Manchester City	24	9	6	9	26	25	24
Sheffield United	24	8	7	9	32	31	23
Wolves	25	8	7	10	31	36	23
Tottenham	25	7	8	10	26	35	22
Stoke City	24	6	9	9	32	28	21
Chelsea	24	8	5	11	38	36	21
West Ham	25	5	7	13	28	42	17
Birmingham	24	5	7	12	26	42	17
Manchester Utd.	24	5	6	13	21	32	16
Norwich	24	2	9	13	17	37	13

NEW COACH IS SOUGHT

AUSTRIA

SINCE their elimination from the World Cup the OFB in Austria have been casting around for an "assistant" to Czech coach Leopold Stastny, the 14th manager since the war.

Clearly it is intended that the new man eventually takes over. None of the well-known Austrian coaches would accept the job, however, knowing their chances of success must be very slim.

Pressure is on again for a revision of the top division to form a smaller elite Division of Honour that would be financially viable. However, every club is already subsidised to some extent. SC Rapid and Wiener Sportklub both have banks behind them while Admira's subsidy comes from a brewery, and Eisenstadt are helped by a grant from a local whose products are advertised on the players shirts.

Even Wacker Innsbruck, the champions, have help from an oil company (that may now be withdrawn) and a firm making optical instruments.

The real answer is fewer clubs, a process already seen in Vienna where Wiener AC, SC Wacker and Admira have amalgamated. Even the famous FK Austria are in serious difficulties, with their chairmen hinting they might have to go amateur.

Meanwhile, even Rapid, off on a tour of the Far East, are hard up. They would dearly like to re-engage their long-lost son Franz Hasil, formerly of Feyenoord and now with Austria Klagenfurt.

Difficult

The fee required is £33,000, and Rapid will find it difficult if not impossible to knock it together. If they get Hasil they will release Bernd Lorenz the West German, but as he is only leased to them they will not receive a fee.

Lothar Ulsass was elected spokesman by his Wiener Sportklub colleagues to deliver an ultimatum to the club directors: "Manager Josef Argner must go or we will refuse to play." WSK's board met to consider the player demand and turned it down flat. We will if necessary fulfil our fixtures with amateur reserves and players from our youth team, they said.

COLIN JOSE reports from Canada and the USA

FIFA SAY 'YES'

FIFA has approved the use of artificial turf for the final rounds of the 1976 Olympic Football Tournament to be played in Canada, and for any of the preliminary round games. Previously although there was no ban on playing on the "mod sod" in the preliminary rounds FIFA had decreed that the final rounds of any FIFA world competition had to be played on grass. Only one Olympic game has ever been played on artificial turf to date and that was between Canada and Mexico at the Empire Stadium in Vancouver in 1971.

With this matter settled the Canadian Olympic Committee now have a much wider choice of sites outside of Montreal where some of the games will surely have to be played. In fact, the whole of the 1976 final competition could be played on the synthetic surface.

If the 16 teams, of which Canada as the host nation, and Poland as the holders, are the only teams yet qualified are divided into the customary four groups they might well find themselves playing in Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa as well as in the main stadium in Montreal. All three of the Ontario cities have large stadiums by Canadian standards and are connected to Montreal by air and by first-class rail services.

On a brief visit to Canada last summer, FIFA General Secretary Dr. Helmut Kaser made an inspection of stadiums in all three of the aforementioned cities as well as in Sherbrooke and Quebec City in the province of Quebec.

Artificial

At the present time both the Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton (capacity 38,000) and the CNE Stadium in Toronto (capacity 38,000) have artificial surfaces while Lansdowne Park in Ottawa (capacity 27,000) is expected to have an artificial surface in the near future.

In approving use of the turf FIFA specified that the best possible artificial turf be used and that it have the best possible cushioning to help reduce the possibility of injuries. They also specified that all the teams have ample opportunity to train on the artificial surface before the tournament so that the players can adapt.

This could well mean an increasing number of international games for Canada before the '76 series with other nations insisting that the games be played on the artificial turf. This would undoubtedly suit the Canadians long starved of international competition and looking for every opportunity to give greater experience to their own fledgling side.

For the coming year Canada has already tested the feelings of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile to playing in Canada either on their way to or from West Germany. An invitation has also gone out to Scotland to play in Canada prior to the World Cup as part of their preparations, but as yet no reply has been received by the Canadian Soccer Association. In addition to this Eckhard Krautzun, Canada's new technical director said in a recent interview that he hopes to have West Germany play in Canada before the World Cup.

New teams for NASL

THE North American Soccer League has added five new franchises to its line-up for 1974, the biggest single jump in membership since the league began operations in 1967 as the National Professional Soccer League.

With the new teams located in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver on the west coast and Baltimore on the east it marks the first time since the collapse of the big 17-team league in 1968 that the NASL has operated from coast to coast across North America.

Addition of the five teams has for the present time created a 14-team league, the largest since 1968, and it is an indication of the growing interest in soccer in both the United States and Canada.

Last year the NASL had its most successful season ever operating out of Atlanta, Dallas, St. Louis, Miami, Philadelphia, New York, Rochester, Montreal and Toronto. At the time of writing all of these clubs seem certain to return for the 1974 season with the exception of Atlanta and Montreal who are experiencing some difficulties.

It is also possible that other new franchises could be admitted before the season opens with Boston a very definite possibility, and cities such as Denver, San Diego, Washington, Houston and Louisville also being mention as interested.

Ownership

Of the new additions only Seattle has never had a team in the league before, but all of the others will play under different ownership this time. Los Angeles had teams in 1967 and 1968, Vancouver in 1968, Baltimore in 1967, 1968 and 1969 while although San Francisco has never had a team in the city the Oakland Clippers operated just across San Francisco Bay in 1967 and 1968 with considerable success. Seattle and indeed most of the state of Washington is one of the better soccer areas in the United States with a large number of boys involved at the minor level.

Particularly welcome is the return of Vancouver, where soccer can be and is played all year round. In fact the regular local season takes place through the winter. More than half of Canada's national team play in the Vancouver amateur leagues and providing they can sign them all the Vancouver clubs could have a very experienced team at very little cost in salaries. Also one would have to think that such a team would be well supported.

Only two of the clubs have yet received names. They are the Los Angeles Aztecs and the Baltimore Comets. In the case of Los Angeles they are obviously trying to attract that city's large Mexican population.

One of the more established clubs that came perilously close to dropping from the scene in recent weeks was the Toronto Metros and it would appear that only a loan guarantee of $250,000 from the province of Ontario saved them.

A report in the "Toronto Globe and Mail" states that the Metros took in $240,000 last year, while the cost of operating the club was $375,000. On top of this Jack Daley, the club's General Manager and one of the better promotions men in the NASL, has resigned to take over the new Seattle club.

SETUBAL COLLAPSE

THE resurgence of Sporting Lisbon and the demise of both Setubal and Benfica have been the chief topics in Portugal. It seems that Setubal's troubles began when they knocked Leeds United out of the UEFA Cup. Ever since then they have been struggling in the table. However, they did manage to win at Benfica which simply underlines the collapse of things at Estoril recently.

Setubal actually led 3-0 with five minutes to go before Jordao and Vitor Martins from a penalty gave some respectability to the scoreline for Benfica. But a week later Setubal lost 2-1 at Sporting who are really the team of the moment.

With Europe's leading marksman in Hector Yazalde the former Argentinian international who has 28 goals, Sporting under the direction of their 36-year-old manager Mario Lino a former left back and international for the club, they have come through to top the table by two points.

Yazalde, who is under pressure to become a naturalised Portuguese, is already being eyed by Argentina as an addition to their World Cup squad.

Settle

Tragedy at Porto where skipper Pavao, a 26-year-old midfield player and Portuguese international, collapsed and died in the match with Setubal. Porto have signed Teofilo Cubillas, the Peruvian forward who did not settle down with Basle during half a season in Switzerland.

In the European Championship, Portugal have been drawn in the same group as England, Cyprus and Czechoslovakia. And they cannot be viewing this prospect too highly.

Esch near title again

JEUNESSE Esch are well on the way towards another title it seems. After 14 matches they have opened up a six point lead and are unbeaten having scored 38 goals and conceded only nine.

The only thing they are not winning at present is the scoring race as Ettelbruck's Johnny Grettnich is top with 15 goals followed by Jean-Pierre Hoffmann of Jeunesse with 13.

Roger Claessen.

Olympiakos retain lead

OLYMPIAKOS are still the leading club and recently had a fine 4-2 win at Aris Salonika. They also have back in action after injury their one-time French junior international Roland Courbis. He played in the 2-2 draw friendly with CSKA Sofia and came through without problems.

The Olympiakos scoring duo of Kritikopoulos and Triantifilos has so far been responsible for 22 of the League goals between them and they appear a strong bet for the title again.

Anderlecht clear as RWD falter

ANDERLECHT have established a two point lead in Belgium over disappointing RWD Molenbeek who have had some compensation through their left back Maurice Martens gaining the Footballer of the Year Award. He is a former Anderlecht player, of course.

Reverses in the League and being knocked out of the Cup by Antwerp have rather tended to take the shine off RWD's season so far. And they were involved in a controversial match with FC Liege recently.

With RWD leading 1-0, Liege equalised when Nico De Bree the Molenbeek goalkeeper was bundled over the line. A linesman flagged but the referee gave a goal. Several spectators rushed on the field and in the melee which followed and involved a player from each side, order was only restored after some five minutes. When play did resume, the referee changed his decision and left RWD winners after all! But he did not add any time on for the stoppage . . .

Anderlecht were forced after a goalless draw into a replay in the Cup by Beerschot, one of the most improved teams in the country but in the League their striker Attila Ladinsky the Hungarian is leading with 14 goals. And Paul Van Himst recently celebrated his 500th game for Anderlecht when they played Malines.

This impressive total has been made up of 405 League games, 45 Belgian Cup games, 31 European Cup games, one Cup Winners Cup match and 18 Fairs or UEFA Cup games. But there was no story book ending and the game ended scoreless as well.

However, goals as such are on the increase it seems. After 120 matches the total was 329 for an average of 2.75, well up on last season.

Error

Standard Liege went out of the UEFA Cup after an error by the normally safe goalkeeper Christian Piot late in the second leg with Standard holding a 3-1 lead from the first game. Feyenoord eventually won on the away goals rule.

• Other names in the news include one-time Standard striker Roger Claessen, now playing centre back for Crossing Schaerbeek, CS Bruges captain Julien Verriest who completed his 250th League game for the club and Louis Pilot the Antwerp sweeper and Luxembourg international out of action for six weeks with damaged ligaments.

International review by Eric Batty

Yugoslavia just keep hopes alive

Greece 2 Yugoslavia 4

THE final and decisive match in the Spain-Yugoslavia qualification tussle took place at the Karaiskakis Stadium in Athens. With the Greek national side sliding back to its form of pre-1969 when they took a turn for the better, the locals largely ignored it. Greece had already been eliminated and only around 15,000 turned out.

The Yugoslavs were marginally stronger than when they drew with Spain 0-0. Petkovic was restored to the right wing problem position (though he now plays in France); Dzajic came back to the left flank despite not having played competitively for eight months and Buljak came in at right back. They were still without two of their best players however, right back Krivokuca and the utility defender Stepanovic.

During the opening 20 minutes the Yugoslavs were in complete control and looked as if they were going to swamp their opponents. Acimovic and the much improved Red Star inside-right Karasi stroked the ball around in midfield with such skill and aplomb, they had the Greeks going round in circles. From that firm base they launched wave after wave of attacks down the wings where Petkovic and Dzajic always had the beating of their immediate opponents.

Near misses

After several near misses, Yugoslavia went ahead in the tenth minute through their formidable striker Bajevic. A flowing move in which five Yugoslavs took part ended with a pass to Petkovic and from his well-placed cross, Bajevic got up to head the ball well clear of Kelesidis.

Encouraged by an early goal the Yugoslavs really poured on the pressure and four minutes later another bout of inter-passing took the Greek defence apart and a through ball from Acimovic sent Karasi through on his own with only the goalkeeper to beat. Karasi made no mistake, judging the moment to shoot superbly and slotted the ball home as the Greek 'keeper left his line.

Play-off

Two goals up, the advantage they needed for a play-off with Spain, the Yugoslavs appeared to relax under the impression that the game was over and inevitably they paid for it.

Following a period of indifferent play by the Yugoslavs, the Greeks began to get into the game and though they never created a real chance, Elefterakis let fly from the 18-yard line with a shot that was so powerful and well placed that goalkeeper Maric had no chance.

Having been completely in command, the Greeks were let off the hook and four minutes after Greece had reduced the arrears, West German referee Kurt Tschenscher intervened decisively. Bajevic and the Greek stopper Glezos had been fighting a running battle, with the defender (as usual) getting away with it. Bajevic retaliated off the ball and this was seen by the referee who promptly sent him off.

Two-one up and down to ten men, the Yugoslavs at this stage needed to score twice more to qualify. Their problem became even greater just before the break when an appalling misunderstanding between centreback Katalinski and goalkeeper Maric led to an equaliser. Maric wanted the ball passed back but Katalinski belatedly tried to find him but tragically put the ball into his own goal. 2-2.

Good talk

During the break, Milan Miljanic, the former Red Star manager who recently resigned, clearly had a good talk with his men and reorganised things. After a bright start Jerkovic had faded out of the game and was replaced by Surjak. In defence Miljanic organised a one against one disposition without a sweeper so that the Greek's numerical advantage would not prove an insuperable handicap and above all he talked his men back into the game.

With Surjak taking over at centre-forward, the Yugoslavs once more began to play with method and purpose. Though their rhythm was slower now they were still in control, but just before the hour Dzajic, who was clearly tired, was replaced by his young club-mate Petrovic. Then four minutes later the Yugoslavs got the break they needed. Goalkeeper Kelesidis went out but failed to collect the ball and in the scramble that followed Surjak produced a scintillating left foot shot. Glezos on the line made a despairing effort to reach it with his head but it was hit too hard and too high for him.

Smelling blood the Yugoslavs came to life again and the last quarter of an hour saw them really on top again with the ball rarely leaving the Greek half. But it was not until the last minute that the Yugoslavs got the vital extra goal they needed.

Close range

A move down the left involving Acimovic and Petrovic ended when goalkeeper Kalesidis went out to the winger and fouled him.

From the free kick, with 20 players packed into the Greek penalty area, a fantastic mêlée developed. Greek attempts to clear hit colleagues, Yugoslav shots were charged down and with the referee looking at his watch and, when about to blow, Karasi lashed at the ball from close in with his right foot and hammered the ball home.

Yugoslav players jumped on him with joy and relief and it was over. Karasi, who is seldom amongst the scorers for Red Star, was the hero of the day with two goals, but Bajevic is automatically suspended for the vital play-off against Spain.

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Results ... dates ... tables ... res

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco 0, Senegal 0
3.12.72 Senegal 1, Morocco 2

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria 1, Guinea 0
12. 3.72 Guinea 5, Algeria 1

Second Preliminary Round

Guinea 1, Morocco 1
Morocco 2, Guinea 0

Group 3

8.12.72 AR Egypt 2, Tunisia 1
17.12.72 Tunisia 2, AR Egypt 0

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone 0, Ivory Coast 1
29.10.72 Ivory Coast 2, Sierra Leone 0

Second Preliminary Round

Tunisia 1, Ivory Coast 1
Ivory Coast 2, Tunisia 1

Group 5

16. 7.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
23. 7.72 Sudan 1, Kenya 0

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Madagascar withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

10.12.72 Mauritius 1, Kenya 3
17.12.72 Kenya 2, Mauritius 2

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia 0, Tanzania 0
3.12.72 Tanzania 1, Ethiopia 1
Play-off Ethiopia 3, Tanzania 0

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho 0, Zambia 0
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Second Preliminary Round

1. 4.73 Ethiopia 0, Zambia 0
15. 4.73 Zambia 4, Ethiopia 2

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 0, Ghana 5
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Second Preliminary Round

Nigeria 2, Ghana 3
Ghana 1, Nigeria 1

Group 11

6. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

4. 2.73 Cameroon 0, Zaire 1
25. 2.73 Zaire 0, Cameroon 1
27. 2.73 Zaire 2, Cameroon 0

Third Round

20. 5.73 Ivory Coast 1, Morocco 1
3. 6.73 Morocco 4, Ivory Coast 1
12. 8.73 Zambia 2, Kenya 0
19. 8.73 Kenya 2, Zambia 2
5. 8.73 Ghana 1, Zaire 0
19. 8.73 Zaire 4, Ghana 1

African Zone Finals

Zambia 4, Morocco 0
Zambia 0, Zaire 2

ASIA

Sub-Group B1

4. 3.73 Australia 1, New Zealand 1
11. 3.73 Australia 3, Iraq 1
Indonesia 1, New Zealand 1
13. 3.73 Iraq 2, New Zealand 0
Australia 2, Indonesia 1
16. 3.73 Iraq 1, Indonesia 1
Australia 3, New Zealand 3
18. 3.73 Indonesia 1, New Zealand 0
Australia 0, Iraq 0
21. 3.73 Iraq 3, Indonesia 2
24. 3.73 Iraq 4, New Zealand 0
Australia 6, Indonesia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	6	3	3	0	15	6	9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	13	4
New Zealand	6	0	3	3	5	12	3

Asia Sub-Group B2

4. 5.73 North Korea 0, Iran 0
4. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 North Korea 1, Syria 1
8. 5.73 Iran 1, Syria 0
8. 5.73 Kuwait 0, North Korea 0
11. 5.73 North Korea 1, Iran 2
11. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 North Korea 3, Syria 0
15. 5.73 Syria 1, Iran 0
15. 5.73 Kuwait 2, North Korea 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	6	4	1	1	7	3	8
Syria	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
North Korea	6	1	3	2	5	5	5
Kuwait	6	1	1	4	4	8	3

18. 8.73 Australia 3, Iran 0
24. 8.73 Iran 2, Australia 0

Asia Sub Group A

Group A

Hong Kong (0) 1, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (2) 4, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (0) 0, Hong Kong (0) 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Japan	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
South Vietnam	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group B

South Korea (0) 4, Thailand (0) 0
Israel (1) 6, Thailand (0) 0
Malaysia (0) 2, Thailand (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Israel (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Malaysia (0) 0
Israel (2) 3, Malaysia (0) 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	2	1	0	9	0	5
South Korea	3	1	2	0	4	0	4
Malaysia	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Thailand	3	0	0	3	0	12	0

Semi finals

South Korea (1) 3, Hong Kong (1) 1
Israel (0) 1, Japan (0) 0*

Final

South Korea (0) 1, Israel (0) 0*
* *after extra time*

Asian Zone Finals

First Leg

Australia 0, South Korea 0

Second Leg

South Korea 2, Australia 2

Play-off

Australia 1, South Korea 0

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	4	0	0	8	3	8
Canada	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
USA	4	0	1	3	6	10	1

Group 2

3.12.72 Guatemala 1, El Salvador 0
10.12.72 El Salvador 0, Guatemala 1

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras 2, Costa Rica 1
10.12.72 Costa Rica 3, Honduras 3

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica
Jamaica withdrew

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti 7, Puerto Rico 0
26. 9.72 Puerto 0, Haiti 5

Group 6

26.11.72 Surinam 1, Trinidad 2
30.11.72 Trinidad 1, Surinam 1
10.12.72 Surinam 3, Antigua 1
3.12.72 Antigua 0, Surinam 6
10.11.72 Trinidad 11, Antigua 1
19.11.72 Antigua 1, Trinidad 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinidad	4	3	1	0	16	4	7
Surinam	4	2	1	1	11	4	5
Antigua	4	0	0	4	3	22	0

Final Tournament

29.11.73 Honduras 2, Trinidad 1
30.11.73 Mexico 0, Guatemala 0
1.12.73 Haiti 3, Neth. Antilles 0
3.12.73 Honduras 1, Mexico 1
5.12.73 Neth. Antilles 2, Guatemala 2
7.12.73 Honduras 0, Haiti 1
8.12.73 Neth. Antilles 0, Mexico 8
10.12.73 Guatemala 0, Trinidad 1
12.12.73 Honduras 2, Neth. Antilles 2
13.12.73 Guatemala 1, Haiti 2
14.12.73 Trinidad 4, Mexico 0
15.12.73 Honduras 1, Guatemala 1
17.12.73 Trinidad, Neth. Antilles
18.12.73 Mexico 1, Haiti 0

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0

ults ... dates ... tables ... results

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25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta 0, Austria 2
29. 4.73 Hungary 2, Austria 2
24. 5.73 Sweden 3, Austria 2
13. 6.73 Hungary 3, Sweden 3
11.11.73 Malta 1, Sweden 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	3	2	1	14	7	8
Sweden	6	3	2	1	15	8	8
Hungary	6	2	4	0	12	7	8
Malta	6	0	0	6	1	20	0

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21.10.72 Switzerland 0, Italy 0
22.10.72 Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
10.12.72 Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0
13. 1.73 Italy 0, Turkey 0
25. 2.73 Turkey 0, Italy 1
31. 3.73 Italy 5, Luxembourg 0
8. 4.73 Luxembourg 0, Switzerland 1
9. 5.73 Switzerland 0, Turkey 0
26. 9.73 Switzerland 1, Luxembourg 0
20.10.73 Italy 2, Switzerland 0
18.11.73 Turkey 2, Switzerland 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	4	2	0	12	0	10
Turkey	6	2	2	2	5	3	6
Switzerland	6	2	2	2	2	4	6
Luxembourg	6	1	0	5	2	14	2

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (in Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands 9, Norway 0
19.11.72 Belgium 0, Netherlands 0
2. 8.73 Iceland 0, Norway 4
22. 8.73 Netherlands 5, Iceland 0
29. 8.73 Iceland 1, Netherlands 8 (in Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway 1, Netherlands 2
31.10.73 Belgium 2, Norway 0
18.11.73 Netherlands 0, Belgium 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	6	4	2	0	24	2	10
Belgium	6	4	2	0	12	0	10
Norway	6	2	0	4	9	16	4
Iceland	6	0	0	6	2	29	0

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania 2, Albania 0
8. 4.73 East Germany 2, Albania 0
6. 5.73 Albania 1, Rumania 4
27. 5.73 Rumania 1, East Germany 0
6. 6.73 Finland 1, East Germany 5
26. 9.73 East Germany 2, Rumania 0
10.10.73 Albania 2, Finland 0
14.10.73 Rumania 9, Finland 0
3.11.73 Albania 1, East Germany 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
East Germany	6	5	0	1	18	3	10
Rumania	6	4	1	1	17	4	9
Finland	6	1	1	4	3	12	3
Albania	6	1	0	5	4	13	2

Group 5

15.11.72 Wales 0, England 1
24. 1.73 England 1, Wales 1
28. 3.73 Wales 2, Poland 0
6. 6.73 Poland 2, England 0
26. 9.73 Poland 3, Wales 0
17.10.73 England 1, Poland 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
England	4	1	2	1	3	4	4
Wales	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

Group 6

29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus 0, Bulgaria 4
14. 2.73 Cyprus 1, Northern Ireland 0
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland 1, Portugal 1
2. 5.73 Bulgaria 2, Portugal 1
9. 5.73 Northern Ireland 3, Cyprus 0
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland 0, Bulgaria 0
13.10.73 Portugal 2, Bulgaria 2
14.11.73 Portugal 1, Northern Ireland 1
18.11.73 Bulgaria 2, Cyprus 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	6	4	2	0	13	3	10
Portugal	6	2	3	1	10	6	7
N. Ireland	6	1	3	2	5	6	5
Cyprus	6	1	0	5	1	14	2

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
18.11.72 Yugoslavia 1, Greece 0
17. 1.73 Greece 2, Spain 3
21. 2.73 Spain 3, Greece 1
21.10.73 Yugoslavia 0, Spain 0
19.12.73 Greece 1, Yugoslavia 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	2	2	0	8	5	6
Yugoslavia	3	1	2	0	8	3	4
Greece	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland 2, Denmark 0
2. 5.73 Denmark 1, Czechoslovakia 1
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia 6, Denmark 0
26. 9.73 Scotland 2, Czechoslovakia 1
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia 1, Scotland 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	4	3	0	1	8	3	6
Czechoslovakia	4	2	1	1	9	3	5
Denmark	4	0	1	3	2	13	1

Group 9

13.10.72 France 1, USSR 0
18.10.72 Eire 1, USSR 2
15.11.72 Eire 2, France 1
13. 5.73 USSR 1, Eire 0
19. 5.73 France 1, Eire 1
26. 5.73 USSR 2, France 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	4	3	0	1	5	2	6
Eire	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
France	4	1	1	2	3	5	3

Play-off with South America Group 3
USSR 0, Chile 0

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

21. 6.73 Colombia 1, Ecuador 1
24. 6.73 Colombia 0, Uruguay 0
28. 6.73 Ecuador 1, Columbia 1
1. 7.73 Ecuador 1, Uruguay 2
5. 7.73 Uruguay 0, Colombia 1
8. 7.73 Uruguay 4, Ecuador 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Colombia	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Ecuador	4	0	2	2	3	8	2

Group 2

2. 9.73 Bolivia 1, Paraguay 2
9. 9.73 Argentina 4, Bolivia 0
16. 9.73 Paraguay 1, Argentina 1
23. 9.73 Bolivia 0, Argentina 1
30. 9.73 Paraguay 4, Bolivia 0
7.10.73 Argentina 3, Paraguay 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	4	3	1	0	9	2	7
Paraguay	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Bolivia	4	0	0	4	1	11	0

Group 3

29. 4.73 Peru 2, Chile 0
3. 5.73 Chile 2, Peru 0
15. 8.73 Chile 2, Peru 1
(Venezuela withdrew)

Play-off with Europe Group 9
USSR 0, Chile 0
USSR withdrew.

Jerzy Gorgon of Poland.

LEAGUE TABLES

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	**13**	**8**	**3**	**2**	**25**	**13**	**19**
Lazio	13	8	3	2	14	7	19
Napoli	13	7	3	3	15	8	17
Fiorentina	13	5	6	2	13	8	16
Milan	13	6	4	3	19	15	16
Inter-Milan	13	5	5	3	20	15	15
Foggia	13	5	5	3	10	13	15
Bologna	13	2	9	2	14	10	13
Cesena	13	2	9	2	10	10	13
Torino	13	3	7	3	9	9	13
Cagliari	13	2	8	3	11	14	12
Roma	13	4	1	8	10	15	9
Verona	13	3	2	8	12	19	8
Genoa	13	1	5	7	7	17	7
Vicenza	13	1	5	7	9	22	7
*Sampdoria	13	2	5	6	11	14	6

*Three points deducted

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	**18**	**13**	**4**	**1**	**61**	**15**	**30**
Twente	18	13	4	1	32	11	30
Feyenoord	18	13	3	2	59	20	29
PSV Eindhoven	18	12	4	2	58	16	28
Amsterdam	19	8	7	4	26	20	23
AZ 67	19	6	8	5	18	19	20
Sparta	19	7	5	7	21	24	19
Telstar	19	5	9	5	24	29	19
Utrecht	19	8	2	9	25	32	18
Den Haag	18	7	3	8	20	26	17
MVV Maastricht	19	5	7	7	21	32	17
Go Ahead	19	7	3	9	24	36	17
De Graafschap	19	3	7	9	21	41	13
Groningen	19	4	4	11	22	51	12
Roda JC	18	2	6	10	14	30	10
NAC Breda	19	3	4	12	23	45	10
NEC Nijemegen	19	2	4	13	15	30	8

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	**15**	**10**	**3**	**2**	**37**	**15**	**23**
RWD Molenbeek	15	7	7	1	23	9	21
Waregem	15	7	5	3	24	24	19
Antwerp	15	7	4	4	21	13	18
Standard Liege	15	6	5	4	18	16	17
Beveren-Waas	15	5	3	7	18	14	17
Malines	15	5	6	4	15	13	16
FC Bruges	15	5	4	6	23	19	14
CS Bruges	15	5	4	6	25	24	14
Liege	15	5	4	6	24	23	14
Lierse	15	4	6	5	20	23	14
Beerschot	15	4	5	6	20	26	13
Berchem	15	3	5	7	17	29	11
St. Trond	15	1	7	7	11	22	9
Beringen	15	3	3.	9	10	32	9

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Bonus Pts
St. Etienne	**22**	**13**	**5**	**4**	**38**	**23**	**5**	**36**
Nantes	21	12	4	5	36	21	6	34
Lyon	22	11	7	4	40	29	4	33
Angers	22	10	5	7	47	38	7	32
Lens	22	11	3	8	38	36	6	31
Reims	22	10	3	9	39	34	7	30
Nimes	22	9	8	5	27	22	3	29
Nice	22	8	6	8	37	29	6	28
Sochaux	22	9	5	8	35	28	5	28
Nancy	21	6	9	6	35	39	6	27
Metz	22	9	4	9	30	23	4	26
Bastia	22	9	4	9	28	27	4	26
Marseilles	22	7	6	9	35	38	4	24
Paris	22	7	3	12	32	46	6	23
Troyes	22	6	6	10	29	37	4	22
Monaco	21	5	7	9	33	38	4	21
Bordeaux	22	5	7	10	28	34	4	21
Rennes	21	7	5	9	19	27	0	19
Strasbourg	22	4	8	10	30	45	3	19
Sedan	22	5	5	12	21	42	0	15

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse d'Esch	**14**	**12**	**2**	**0**	**38**	**9**	**26**
Spora	14	9	2	3	34	13	20
Avenir	14	8	3	3	31	19	19
Aris	14	8	2	4	28	15	18
Red Boys	14	9	0	5	26	15	18
Etzella	14	7	2	5	23	21	16
Red Star	14	5	2	7	19	24	12
Union	14	4	4	6	18	23	12
Fola	14	3	3	8	21	33	9
Rumelingen	14	3	3	8	14	30	9
Stade	14	2	2	10	18	33	6
The National	14	1	1	12	7	42	3

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olym. Piraeus	**15**	**11**	**4**	**0**	**48**	**8**	**26**
Panathinaikos	15	11	3	1	33	10	25
Aris Salonika	15	11	2	2	23	10	24
PAOK Salonika	15	9	3	3	30	16	21
Panionios	15	8	2	5	19	17	18
AEK Athens	15	7	3	5	29	16	17
Panachaiki	15	6	4	5	19	15	16
Larissa	15	5	4	6	13	17	14
Ethnikos	15	6	2	7	15	20	14
Iraklis	15	3	7	5	15	19	13
Kavala	15	4	4	7	18	22	12
Olym. Volos	15	5	2	8	13	19	12
Fostir	15	3	5	7	11	24	11
Panserakos	15	4	3	8	11	24	11
Apoel Nicosia	15	4	2	9	15	24	10
Aigaleo	15	3	3	9	8	22	9
Apollon Athens	15	2	5	8	11	31	9
Apollon Salonika	15	2	4	9	9	26	8

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portadown	**10**	**7**	**2**	**1**	**27**	**6**	**16**
Glenavon	10	6	1	3	17	14	13
Crusaders	10	5	2	3	25	18	12
Ballymena	8	5	1	2	16	9	11
Coleraine	8	5	1	2	15	9	11
Linfield	10	4	3	3	24	15	11
Ards	9	3	3	3	18	16	9
Bangor	10	3	3	4	15	15	9
Larne	9	3	2	4	17	26	8
Glentoran	10	2	2	6	15	20	6
Cliftonville	10	2	1	7	9	26	5
Distillery	8	0	1	7	10	34	1

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cork Hibernians	**14**	**10**	**2**	**2**	**27**	**10**	**22**
Cork Celtic	14	10	2	2	28	19	22
Finn Harps	14	8	4	2	30	16	20
Bohemians	13	9	1	3	30	19	19
Waterford	13	7	4	2	38	22	18
Athlone Town	14	5	3	6	12	19	13
Limerick	14	4	4	6	19	22	12
Shamrock Rovers	14	4	4	6	15	18	12
Dundalk	14	4	3	7	17	20	11
Drogheda	14	4	3	7	19	31	11
Home Farm	14	4	3	7	10	21	11
Shelbourne	14	3	2	9	19	39	8
Sligo Rovers	14	3	1	10	13	27	7
St. Patrick's Ath.	12	3	0	9	11	22	6

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	**18**	**11**	**4**	**3**	**38**	**12**	**26**
Atletico Bilbao	18	10	4	4	22	15	24
Zaragoza	18	9	5	4	29	22	23
Malaga	18	8	5	5	16	14	21
Atletico Madrid	18	8	3	7	27	17	19
Granada	18	7	5	6	17	18	19
Real Madrid	18	5	8	5	25	18	18
Valencia	18	8	2	8	22	20	18
Espanol	17	7	2	8	15	18	16
Celta Vigo	18	6	4	8	22	24	16
Elche	18	6	4	8	13	18	16
Las Palmas	18	8	0	10	15	21	16
Real Sociedad	18	6	4	8	13	18	16
Murcia	17	4	7	6	17	24	15
Castellon	18	4	7	7	16	20	15
Gijon	18	7	1	10	23	32	15
Santander	18	4	7	7	18	27	15
Oviedo	18	6	2	10	21	28	14

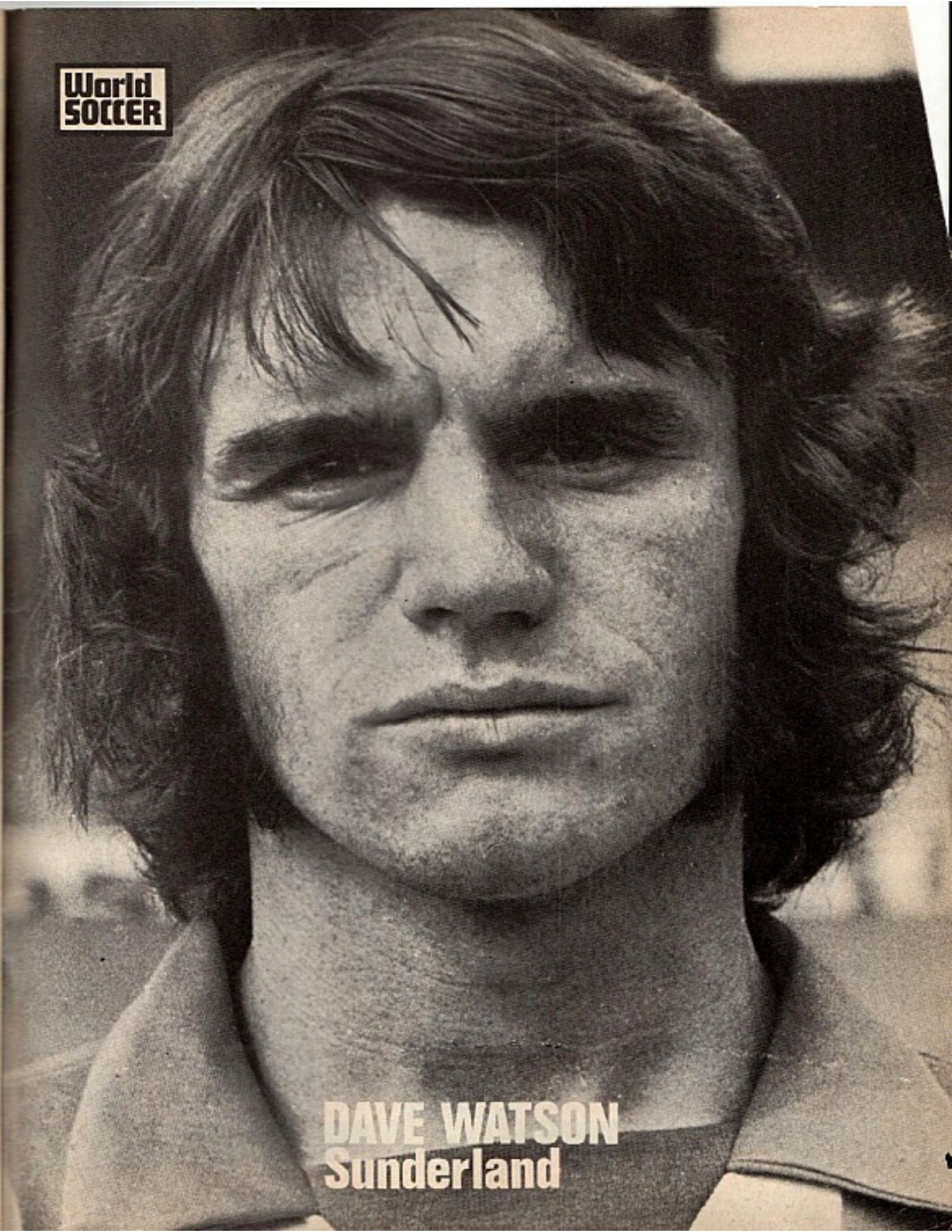
PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Lisbon	**17**	**13**	**2**	**2**	**55**	**12**	**28**
Vitoria Setubal	17	12	2	3	41	14	26
Porto	17	11	4	2	30	12	26
Benfica	17	11	3	3	24	10	25
Belenenses	17	8	4	5	30	21	20
Farense	17	6	7	4	23	18	19
CUF Barreiro	17	7	4	6	26	23	18
Guimaraes	16	5	6	5	13	16	16
Boavista	17	5	4	8	20	28	14
Olhanese	17	5	3	8	20	41	13
Oriental	17	6	1	10	18	42	13
Montijo	17	4	3	10	23	35	11
Academica	17	4	3	10	18	30	11
Beira-Mar	17	4	3	10	23	27	11
Barreirense	17	2	6	9	9	25	10
Leixoes	16	3	3	10	18	27	9

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	**18**	**15**	**2**	**1**	**51**	**12**	**32**
Hibernian	18	12	3	3	40	21	27
Rangers	18	10	4	4	27	14	24
Ayr United	20	10	4	6	27	21	24
Hearts	19	9	5	5	33	24	23
Aberdeen	17	7	8	2	23	14	22
Dundee United	18	8	5	5	32	25	21
Motherwell	19	6	6	7	23	22	18
Arbroath	19	6	5	8	33	37	17
Dumbarton	19	8	1	10	25	32	17
Dundee	17	6	4	7	26	24	16
Partick	18	4	6	8	18	29	14
Morton	17	4	5	8	17	23	13
Dunfermline	19	4	5	10	26	38	13
East Fife	19	5	3	11	13	25	13
St. Johnstone	18	4	5	9	18	32	13
Clyde	19	4	5	10	16	39	13
Falkirk	18	2	6	10	22	38	10

MORE NEXT MONTH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Sunderland

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